



Louise: the Bashir treatment

FEATURES page 19



50 years of the NHS

16-page SUPPLEMENT



SPORT pages 52-53

Straw attacks 'disgraceful scenes'

5-year travel ban planned for hooligans

By Philip Webster, John Goodbody and Adrian Lee

Football hooligans could face an automatic five-year ban on travelling to matches abroad as part of a clampdown on England's unruly followers. The bans are being considered by Jack Straw as he seeks to strengthen anti-hooligan measures in the wake of the violence seen at the World Cup in France. In the meantime, courts are being reminded that they already have power to impose a restriction order on anyone found guilty of football-related offences...

There is a resentment by the German underclass of all things French. The transformation of historical enemy into the benign axis of an integrated Europe has failed to trickle down into the housing estates and the suburbs

Roger Boyes, page 6

Early indications were promising, with the fans good-humoured even though several thousand of them were locked out as the black market failed to meet demand for tickets. The stadium stands on an island about 20 minutes from the town centre and some fans made their way there on a paddle steamer. One group wore bear costumes and French police happily took snapshots for supporters as they went through the security points. The violence in Marseilles was still in everyone's mind, however, and in the Commons Sir Norman Fowler urged the Government to take strong measures against thugs...

Hollow friendship, page 6 Match report, page 56



Paul Ince, who was injured in the 35th minute, being consoled by his replacement David Beckham as he left the field in Toulouse last night

Germany's turn to tell of its shame

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WE ARE ASHAMED! ran the banner headline in Bild yesterday, the paper of choice for most of the thousands of German football fans milling in the streets of Bonn. The brutal beating of a French policeman prompted a sharp response from Helmut Kohl and several members of his Cabinet. The Chancellor described the violence - Daniel Nível was beaten unconscious with iron bars and a baseball bat - as "an absolute disgrace to our country".

Wir schämen uns!

Deutschlands randalierten in Lens • Polizist im Koma

Association, broke down in tears as he declared: "This is no longer hooliganism, this is terrorism." And former international players, led by Uwe Reinders, were organising a charity match to raise funds for the family of M Nível, who was in a "very, very critical condition" last night. More than 600 "category C" hooligans - those regarded as most likely to behave violently - had been among convoys of ticketless fans who crossed the border into France over the weekend, in spite of tighter frontier controls. Bild claimed that 430 neo-

made the Nazi salute and shouted extreme right-wing slogans. But Reinhard Wagner, Germany's leading investigator of far Right violence, doubted that as many as 400 extremists were involved. "There are links between the neo-Nazi scene and these type of hooligans because of their political persuasions, but real neo-Nazis do not get involved in fights like this," he said. German fans organise themselves along tribal lines, clustered around individual clubs, and are not very politicised - although neo-Nazi groupings, especially in northern Germany, have been infiltrating supporters' groups. In national games it becomes difficult to distinguish between the politically disinterested sup-

Continued on page 6, col 5

Britons plucked from mountain

Two British soldiers were rescued by helicopter from Mt McKinley in Alaska, where they spent four days without food in a blizzard. One was released from hospital and the other is being treated for frost-bitten feet. Page 5

Stagecoach stake in Virgin Rail

A deal giving Stagecoach, one of Britain's biggest transport companies, a 49 per cent (£158 million) stake in Virgin Rail will be blocked unless passenger improvements are included. Pages 4, 29, 31

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M&S and Rolls-Royce will help failing schools in Blunkett plan

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

HOUSEHOLD names of the business world, including Marks & Spencer, Rolls-Royce and American Express, will help to run failing schools in the Government's flagship education programme to be launched today. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, will announce plans for the first 25 education action zones this morning. Among the dozen to begin operating in September will be two consortiums in Inner London and one in Grimsby which is promising to put a computer in every child's home. Other zones approved in the £75 million initiative will experiment with a longer school day and shorter holidays. Each will contain about 20 schools in areas of low educa-

tional performance, where the national curriculum will be controlled under the Conservatives, despite legislation to abolish grant-maintained status. Others are proposing to employ "superheads" to take advantage of the new grade of advanced skills teacher to attract outstanding staff. However, David Willens, the Shadow Education Secretary, said most zones would be local authority-led. "After all the hype, this is a damp squib. I don't blame local authorities for bidding, but their domination means there will be no significant change in the way education is delivered." Each zone has had to attract private sponsorship worth at least £250,000, with the Government providing an extra £750,000 a year. Although some companies have pledged cash, much of the sponsorship

will come as services or equipment. In Grimsby, for example, an information technology consortium will supply computers for up to 5,000 homes to provide a link to schools in the area. World Challenge, the expeditions company, will offer management services and residential training. Many of the projects to be announced today exist in outline only. Few are expected to commit themselves to varying teachers' conditions as ministers hoped. In Lambeth, for example, Heather du Cunesay, the chief education officer, said in March that there would be no "unilateral" changes to pay or conditions. David Blunkett, page 22 Leading article, page 23

Soldier killed by smuggler

A BRITISH soldier was killed in Northern Ireland yesterday as he attempted to stop an oil tanker fleeing from a joint police and army patrol (Martin Fletcher writes). Corporal Gary Fenton, 29, was a member of the 1st Battalion Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. He came from Newbury and was married, with a four-year-old daughter. The patrol stopped the tanker at a checkpoint near Crossmaglen in South Armagh and questioned the driver for 20 minutes before he suddenly drove off. Corporal Fenton died as he tried to flag down the tanker. Security sources said they believed the tanker was smuggling cheap diesel to Northern Ireland. Trimble's vision, page 12

Advertisement for 'Getting hitched?' featuring a cartoon of a man and a woman. Text includes: 'Oh David, it's beautiful!... one of the best I ever had!', 'You desperately need a free copy of Look Before You Leap', 'Boodle & Dunthorne, the leading English jewellers, have packed it with helpful information, common sense, and some reasonably impartial advice.', 'Don't let your credit card out of your sight until you've read it from cover to cover. Call in to pick up your free copy, or telephone 0171-437 5050.', '1 Sloane Street, Knightsbridge, SW1 128-130 Regent Street, W1', 'BOODLE & DUNTHORNE ESTABLISHED 1798', 'Quiet please! I'm trying to listen to the football'

Henman's struggle matches World Cup tension

By Peter Foster and Deborah Collcutt

TIM HENMAN fought his way through a nail-biting three-and-a-quarter-hour match against the Czech Jiri Novak at Wimbledon yesterday, providing enough excitement to compete with England's second World Cup match. But Henman, seeded No 12, blamed chanting soccer fans for putting him off his stride as he lost a two-set lead before talking the fifth 6-2. He said some had called out "Come on Tim, we want to watch the football." Anna Kournikova, a semi-finalist last year, will miss this year's tournament. News of the 17-year-old Russian's withdrawal came late yesterday after she was advised by doctors that the thumb injury she suffered at Eastbourne earlier this month would not allow her to take part.

was hoping a miracle could happen, I was hoping that maybe it would get better but this morning when I woke up it was very difficult to move the finger," she said. For those who wanted to stay at Wimbledon to watch Henman and keep up with England's World Cup progress there was disappointment. The giant television screen which showed matches during the Euro 96 championship will be tuned to tennis only on the All England Club's orders. Christopher Goringe, club chief executive, announced that tennis "must remain the priority." Around the club grounds, not a single bar or restaurant had a television tuned in to the World Cup - a move that drew widespread criticism from spectators and officials at the tournament. The All England Club said the big screen was to avoid disruptions from cheering supporters. When Eng-

land lost to Germany in the 1996 semi-finals on penalties, more than 4,000 fans gathered on the picnic terrace to watch. "At that time the old No 1 Court was being demolished so the noise did not matter so much. However, with the new No 1 Court we felt it would be unworkable to have loud cheers whenever England scored a goal," an official added. Some tennis fans left early yesterday to catch the football; others from farther afield had set their videos at home. As a concession to football fans, however, the club will be broadcasting details of important World Cup matches over the general information system. Umpires not scheduled for a late match yesterday were smiling as they left, and Wimbledon publicans featuring the football were even happier. Wimbledon, pages 52, 53



Why Westminster's bigwigs must not be put to the sword

Odd that Sir Patrick Cormack should think they contribute to the dignity of the House, for the three wigged clerks at the table in front of Madam Speaker yesterday looked (as ever) like three monkeys dressed up for a children's matinee at a zoo.

ly do anything, appearing more ornamental than functional. One day their leader will suddenly emit a baboon-like bark — and set the other two off gibbering and shrieking. After a scolding from Madam Speaker they will calm down and start grooming each other, searching for fleas in each other's wigs.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH
subject best left undisturbed. Nor should we take away the sword of the Serjeant-at-Arms.

gangway steps. Before he had advanced two paces, he received an Irish Member (Mr Crean) full in the pit of the stomach ... and commenced vaguely but vigorously to thump him with his fists.

from the shoulder [but missed, and] hit Mr Austin on the left jaw. [Then] Mr Crean ... gave Colonel Saunderson ... a "wonder on the right temple."

closed fists beating about in wild confusion. But help was at hand. The Serjeant-at-Arms strode in, his sword by his side.

Five-year deal for coal restricts gas power expansion

Reprieve for pits after intervention by Blair appears to have won support of Left, reports Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR has agreed to a compromise package to help keep Britain's coal mines going for the next five years while allowing limited development of gas-fired power stations.

agreed that all gas-fired plants already given planning approval would be subject to a "quick review".

protection to coal producers while encouraging competition between a variety of producers.



Beckett: wants to find gap in market for coal

Other plans include curbs on open-cast coal developments and moves to force the French to turn the interconnector under the Channel to become a two-way power flow into and out of England to France.

years.



Rachel Anderson, Britain's only female football agent

Agent's plea on sex bias

presented to the Commons on an almost weekly basis but Ms Anderson chose to use the more rare custom of presenting one to the Lords.

Essex, and now represents 77 footballers.

Lord Razzall, the Liberal Democrat peer who moved the petition, urged the Government to review the Act, with the intention of "enhancing" its powers.

Lord Whitty, the minister responsible for the issue, said the Government "deplored" the action of the PFA, but he insisted that "serious issues" would have to be considered before legislation was drafted.

World Cup, page 6

Woodward admits bitterness towards Eappens

BY CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LOUISE WOODWARD last night publicly criticised the parents of Matthew Eappen, the baby of whose manslaughter she is convicted, and admitted: "I certainly have no love for them."

and I find that incredibly hurtful ... I feel, almost, that I've lost the right to look at a child — that I've lost the right to tell a mother her child is beautiful or to soothe at a baby and I do feel this stigma ... but that's something I will personally have to get over."

Online, Detective Sergeant William Byrne of the Newton Police Department in Massachusetts, said he could no longer resist making his feelings known publicly.

look in Matthew's eyes and both parents had examined his CT scans. "It explained an awful lot," she said, "because if you take his parents out of the equation there's really only one other person you can point the finger at and that was me."

person to serve." She also said she had mixed feelings about the televising of trials, which is not allowed in Britain. "On the one hand I would say yes because it allows people to see inside the courtroom and then when a miscarriage of justice does occur, they can see that for themselves ... On the other hand, the way it is done in America, it is seen far more as entertainment ... People's lives are used for ratings and it becomes a pantomime, it becomes a show."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Straw acts to restrict press 'gagging orders'

Jack Straw moved yesterday to safeguard the freedom of the press with an amendment to the Human Rights Bill that will restrict the use of "gagging orders" against media organisations.

Diana fund to continue

Trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund have defied their critics by declaring that they intend to continue "indefinitely".

Backing for Christie

A forensic expert told a libel trial it was a "virtual impossibility" for Linford Christie to test negative 100 times if he had been using performance-enhancing drugs.

Victim prepared to die

A housewife suffered a savage knife attack in her home at the hands of a neighbour, Maidstone Crown Court was told.

Predatory pricing revolt

Labour MPs are planning a new attempt, in defiance of the party leadership, to outlaw alleged predatory pricing by newspapers.

Perverted teacher jailed

A former preparatory school teacher who subjected six boys to "degrading and perverted" sexual abuse was jailed for ten years.

Inmate wins back horns

Judges yesterday ordered that an antiques dealer who is nearing the end of a life sentence for murdering his wife should be given back his collection of rhino horns, expected to sell for hundreds of thousands of pounds.

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Systems with Windows 98 to be delivered after scheduled Microsoft release date of June 25th subject to availability.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 23 1998

Rolex on body of of drowned man 'gave away killer'

Simon de Bruxelles reports on claims that fugitive murdered his friend after first stealing his identity

A ROLEX watch on the wrist of a body trawled up from the bottom of the Channel led police to a fugitive who was accused yesterday of murder.

Albert Walker, a Canadian financial adviser who fled to Britain in 1990 with millions of dollars of his clients' money, had stolen the identity of a friend, Ronald Platt, after paying for him to emigrate to Canada, a court was told yesterday.

But Mr Platt made the fatal mistake of returning to Britain when his new life turned sour. Exeter Crown Court was told that on July 20, 1996, two Ronald Platts went sailing on Mr Walker's 24ft yacht, the *Lady Jane*. Only one of them returned.

The real Platt drowned after being hit over the head and pitched overboard with a 10lb anchor through his belt, Charles Barton, QC, for the prosecution, said. It was sheer coincidence that a Brixham trawler was working in the spot where the body had been dumped and fished it up eight days later.

Mr Barton told the jury: "The body was of a male. It was clothed and the trouser pockets had been pulled out and there was nothing by way of identity apart from a tattoo on the back of his right hand. "He had a substantial gash on the back of his scalp and he had on his right wrist a Rolex Oyster Perpetual self-winding date chronometer. If he had not had that, the investigation might have proved fruitless.



Sheena Walker: gave evidence against father

"It was through that Rolex that the identity of Platt was ultimately established. He had not been reported missing. He had been in the water since Saturday, July 20.

"We say he was in fact put there that day from a boat belonging to this defendant which then found its way back to the River Dart.

The man's pockets were empty and the only form of identification he carried was the serial number on the Rolex. Through the number, Rolex was able to trace the service records and give police an address in Essex. Mr Walker, 53, had taken every precaution to cover his tracks, even down to removing the navigation system from his boat which could provide evidence of where he had been. He told his daughter

Sheena, with whom he had fled Canada, that Mr Platt had gone to France. He then packed up the dead man's few possessions and put them into storage.

When police arrived at the empty flat, they were given the name and mobile telephone number of a David Davis whom Mr Platt had used as a reference. Mr Davis was contacted and informed of Platt's death but said that he could shed no light on it.

At this stage, no crime was even suspected. But to tie up a few loose ends officers decided to reinterview Mr Davis. They went to his rented farmhouse at Woodham Walter in Essex but inadvertently knocked on the door of the wrong house. It was a mistake which ultimately led to Mr Walker's downfall, said Mr Barton.

The surprised occupant told the officers that his neighbours were Ronald Platt and his young wife, Noelle. He had never heard of David Davis — which was an alias that Mr Walker had abandoned several years before.

Mr Walker and his daughter, who were pretending to be man and wife, were arrested on suspicion of murder before detectives had any clue as to their real identity. Ms Walker, 22, was subsequently released and yesterday told the court that she had been caught up in her father's deceit.

Mr Platt, a television repairman, dreamt of emigrating to Canada where he had lived as a child. He met Mr Walker



Ronald Platt, whose body was found by trawlermen; and Albert Walker, who denies murdering him and is said to have used Mr Platt's identity



through his girlfriend, Elaine Boyes, who was working as the fugitive's secretary. When Mr Walker gave the pair of them tickets to Canada Mr Platt leapt at the opportunity to go.

But Mr Barton said: "He appears to have had an almost uncanny knack of failing at almost everything to which he turned his hand."

When Mr Platt returned to Britain penniless his mere presence became a threat to Mr Walker's double life. "The man Walker ultimately murdered was two Ronald Platts living in or near Chelmsford and that was going to prove a matter of acute embarrassment to him," Mr Barton told the jury.

"He had been living a lie.

Just imagine the difficulty if the original Ronald Platt showed up. Imagine the complications it would cause.

"After Platt's return to Britain, Walker was maintaining him and seeing him weekly and there appears to have been a degree of exasperation. If you are living a lie, having secured the departure of some body whose identity you have assumed, exasperation is probably an understatement."

Ms Walker, who has two daughters, said that she had left Canada with her father after her parents' marriage broke up. They stayed at the Ritz in London under assumed names and visited Geneva and Paris before settling in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. She had believed they were on the run from divorce law-

yers and custody proceedings. She said: "My mother was after us to seek custody and after my father for financial support, which he said was a great deal of money."

"After we moved to Harrogate I got to know Elaine Boyes and Ronald Platt. My father had started a business and at Christmas 1992 my father gave them two air tickets to Calgary in Canada.

"I later found out my father got a birth certificate and driving licence from Platt."

It was as Ronald and Noelle Platt that the father and daughter moved to Devon and then subsequently to Essex where Mr Walker set himself up as an adviser.

Ms Walker said: "My father suggested that because there was a small child we should

present ourselves as a couple, a husband and wife."

It was during a family holiday in Devon that Mr Walker allegedly murdered his friend. Ms Walker was unaware that Mr Platt was staying at a pub near their rented cottage at Dittisham, Devon, at her father's expense. After his arrest she returned to live with her mother in Canada.

She told the court that during a telephone conversation her father had asked her to change her testimony to police and say she had known that Mr Platt was in Devon.

Mr Walker, who denies murdering Mr Platt, sat in the dock passing notes to his defence counsel, Richard Ferguson, QC, as his daughter gave evidence against him.

The trial continues.



The Rolex watch police used to identify Mr Platt

Son is held after fatal attack at family home

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A MAN WAS in custody last night after his father, a retired Royal Navy commander, was killed in a knife attack, and his mother, a newspaper agony aunt, was critically injured.

Kenneth McCaskill, 26, was arrested at 9am yesterday, 12 hours after the attack at the family's Georgian apartment in Edinburgh's New Town. Last night he was being questioned by Lothian and Borders Police. A report is being prepared for the procurator fiscal.

Catherine McCaskill, 54, better known as Kit Dallas, the agony aunt at the Edinburgh Evening News, was said to be "critical but stable" at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary after surgery.

It is not clear whether she knows that her husband, Simon, 57, is dead.

The couple have lived at the apartment in Scotland Street, one of Edinburgh's most sought-after addresses, with their only son for 14 years. They are believed to have been found after alarmed neighbours heard what they described as a violent commotion. A neighbour, who did not want to be named, described the McCaskills as a "nice family" and said the incident had shaken the neighbourhood.

She said: "This sort of thing never happens here. It has come as a terrible shock to us all. Obviously Kitty is quite



Simon McCaskill, who died of knife wounds, and his wife, Catherine, who is critically ill in hospital

well known in the area and everyone is horrified at what has happened to her and her family. It is utterly incomprehensible."

Another neighbour said: "I saw Kit just the other day coming back from a fishing trip. She was so thrilled because she had caught a 10lb fish, and I think it was her first catch after starting fishing recently."

The McCaskills are neighbours of Irvine Welsh, the author of *Trainspotting*, who bought the flat below theirs last week but will not move in until next month.

Mrs McCaskill began solving readers' problems seven years ago after being recruited by Helen Martin, said to be her closest friend and also the

Evening News's associate editor, who believed she was a "natural" for the job. At the last election, she worked as a press officer for the late Sir James Goldsmith and the Referendum Party.

Ms Martin said yesterday: "Kit is very kind hearted, a very buoyant sort of person. In the face of whatever problems she had, she kept very up and very jolly. And Simon was an extremely loving and caring father. All our thoughts are with Kit."

A police spokesman said: "A 20-year-old man has been arrested in connection with a serious incident at Scotland Street in which a 57-year-old man died on Sunday night. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal."

Airline passenger 'flew at captain' over smoking

By TIM JONES

AN ENRAGED businessman had to be removed from the flight deck of a jumbo jet when he burst in to complain about people smoking, a court was told yesterday.

John Bagwell had stormed through the aircraft after passengers sitting in front of him started to light up on the flight from South Africa to London last December.

Joseph Boothby, for the prosecution, told Isleworth Crown Court in West London: "He leapt to his feet and started screaming at some of the smokers, ordering them to put their cigarettes out. The smoking section responded with a barrage of abuse."

"Not to be outdone, Mr Boothby said, Mr Bagwell yelled: "You are all savages and animals." He then abused an air hostess, telling her she was "pathetic".

The barrister explained that

unlike most airlines, South Africa Airways permitted smoking on board. But it was confined to the three front rows in the economy class. Unfortunately for Mr Bagwell, he was allocated a seat right behind them.

The aircraft had just reached cruising height when Captain Johannes De Wet was confronted by the screaming and gesticulating economy-class passenger.

He had screamed at the on-board service manager and demanded to be upgraded to first class. He had then become incensed when a flight engineer was sent to see him instead of the captain.

After being removed from the flight deck, the crew managed to get Mr Bagwell to sit in another economy class seat away from the smoking section. For a time, Mr Boothby said, Mr

Bagwell appeared to calm down but subjected the captain to more verbal abuse when he toured the aircraft to see everything was in order.

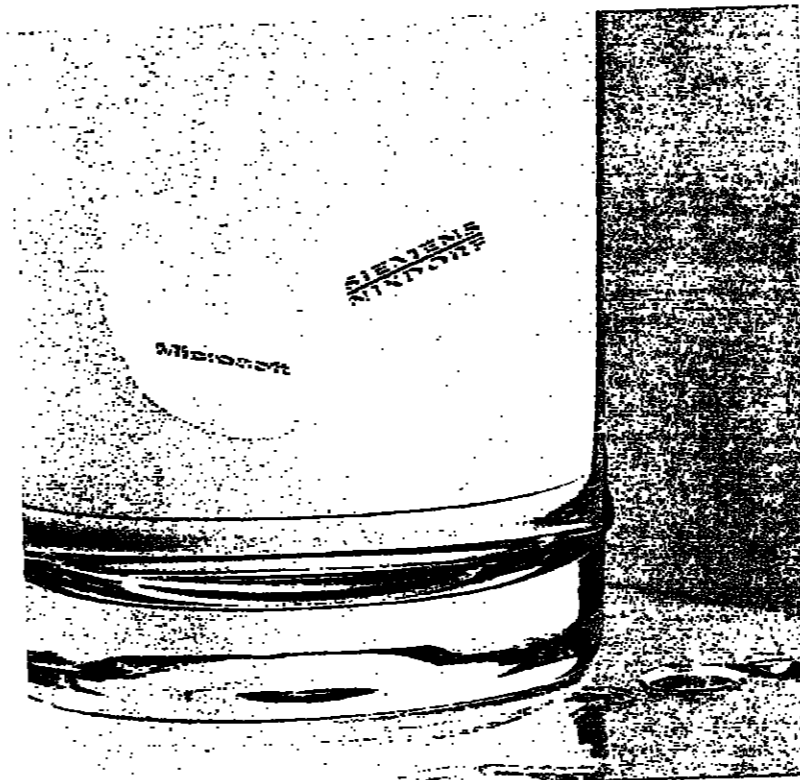
Mr Boothby said he was screaming and shouting abuse like a man possessed. "He was shaking, red-faced, gesticulating. He was putting his face right up to the captain's face and shouting with such venom that he was spitting with rage."

Mr Bagwell, 42, of Berkeley Street, Mayfair, who was arrested at Heathrow at the end of the ten-hour flight, denies endangering an aircraft and affray.

Mr Bagwell, who suffers from a series of medical conditions, had denied losing his temper but said he was sensitive to smoke and needed to assert his rights in a forthright manner.

The trial continues.

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Watchdog demands could delay Branson rail deal

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A DEAL for Stagecoach, one of Britain's biggest transport companies, to take a £138 million stake in Virgin Rail will be blocked unless improvements for passengers are included.

The surprise agreement, under which Stagecoach would have a 49 per cent holding in Virgin Rail, would bring together two of the wealthiest entrepreneurs in the travel industry, Brian Souter and Richard Branson. However, regulators are expected to put it on hold, possibly for months, and demand improvements such as increased station security and compensation for late trains.

The two companies plan to run Virgin's twin rail operations, the West Coast mainline service from London to Glasgow, and the Cross Country network from Penzance to Aberdeen. Both operations have come in for heavy criticism because of poor punctuality and service reliability. Under the deal, Mr



Richard Branson, 47

Chairman of Virgin Group. Personal wealth estimated at £1 billion. Populist businessman who started selling records and built a multi-billion pound empire. Sidelines: 179 companies trade under Virgin brand, including Virgin Travel, Virgin Rail, Virgin Cola, Virgin Cinemas and Virgin Hotels. Rail record: of the 25 train operators, Branson's West Coast Mainline, running from London to Glasgow, and Cross Country, operating from Penzance to Aberdeen are among the least punctual.

Brian Souter, 43

Chairman of Stagecoach. Personal wealth estimated at £580 million. Former trainee accountant who began bus business with sister, gaining reputation for aggressive tactics. Sidelines: South West Trains, busy train company; Island Line, on Isle of Wight, Britain's smallest; Stagecoach buses; Stagecoach Express. Rail record: South West Trains was criticised after dismissing dozens of drivers and having to cancel hundreds of services because of driver shortages. Island Line is reliable.



Branson will increase his previous minority stake to 51 per cent. Stagecoach, the bus, rail and airports group, has offered to buy out four venture capitalists, ensuring them of huge profits on the £45 million they invested two years ago.

However, John O'Brien, the rail franchising director, is expected to impose tough conditions, including additional investment and facilities for passengers, as his price for approving the proposals. Mr O'Brien has already forced three rail operators to intro-

duce passenger improvements in return for his approval of takeover deals. He is under pressure from John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to force improvements whenever new financial arrangements are made between rail firms.

He said yesterday that he would be holding discussions with Stagecoach and Virgin and added: "Above all, I shall need to be convinced that the proposed deal is in the best interests of passengers."

Last year South West Trains, part of Stage-

coach, was forced to cancel thousands of trains after dozens of drivers were dismissed. The company was penalised £2 million for running late and short trains.

Mr Souter said that he and Mr Branson had similar business styles and were both "maverick" entrepreneurs. "Stagecoach offers us the chance to work with a strong bus network and improve the service across large parts of the country, using trains and buses together."

Virgin is preparing an order

for 54 tilting trains, capable of travelling at 140mph, on the West Coast mainline. The high-speed service is part of the company's plans to double the number of passengers on the two routes over the next decade. "I'm still looking forward to the day we can grass over the motorways," Mr Branson said.

Mr Souter said: "The two companies are dedicated to building modern and effective integrated transport systems."

Souter boards, pages 29 & 31



Woman's boxing campaign succeeds

A WOMAN boxer was celebrating yesterday after winning a three-year fight to compete in Britain.

Jane Couch, the world welterweight champion from Fleetwood, Lancashire, received her professional licence from the British Boxing Board of Control on Saturday, three months after taking it to an industrial tribunal, where she claimed sex discrimination.

Couch, 29, has until now been able to box only in America or on the European mainland. She brought the case after the board rejected her initial application, claiming women were unstable and prone to injury due to premenstrual tension.

She said yesterday: "It [the licence] came through the post on Saturday morning. I thought it was a boxing video at first. I couldn't believe it when I opened it and my licence dropped out — with a copy of the rules book inside as well."

Tex Woodward, her trainer, said: "She is fit and raring to go."

Jane Couch, who has won the right to box in Britain

Teacher sacked after 'she forced girls to eat greens'

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A TEACHER who was sacked after parents complained that she set too much homework and forced children to eat their greens said yesterday that she had been victimised by the head teacher of her independent girls' school.

Clare Head, who had taught for six years at St David's School in Ashford, West London, claimed unfair dismissal at an industrial tribunal in Croydon, South London. She said that she was popular with her pupils but had fallen out with Judith Osborne, the head teacher.

The tribunal was told that Mrs Head, 54, was sacked from the school, where boarding fees exceed £9,000 a year, after six parents lodged complaints about her "eccentric" behaviour. She was said to check lunch plates to ensure that her class of 24 pupils had eaten their vegetables and to embarrass girls in front of their classmates.

William Stevens, a school governor, told the tribunal: "Mrs Head had not heeded previous warnings... I reached the conclusion that dismissal was the only course of action we could take."

Dr Stevens, a biology lecturer at London University, added: "Complaints from parents had been made during a long period of time — not just in 1997 and not just from a few children and their parents. Her skills as a teacher were not in dispute but she had an eccentric and theatrical way of running her classes."

Mrs Head engendered fear and uncertainty in girls, Dr Stevens said. She was warned particularly about pretending to strange her pupils. "She doesn't realise that while it is amusing to an adult, it is very frightening to children."

The hearing continues.

CORRECTIONS

The narrator of the Thomas the Tank Engine stories remains in the UK, Michael Angelis (report, June 18). Alec Baldwin is to become the Thomas storyteller in America.

Although the farm at Feldon, Essex (report, Townies reap best countryside jobs, May 27) incorporates 12 workshop units, only two, not 11 as reported, are car-related businesses. Only two of the lessees come from Colchester.

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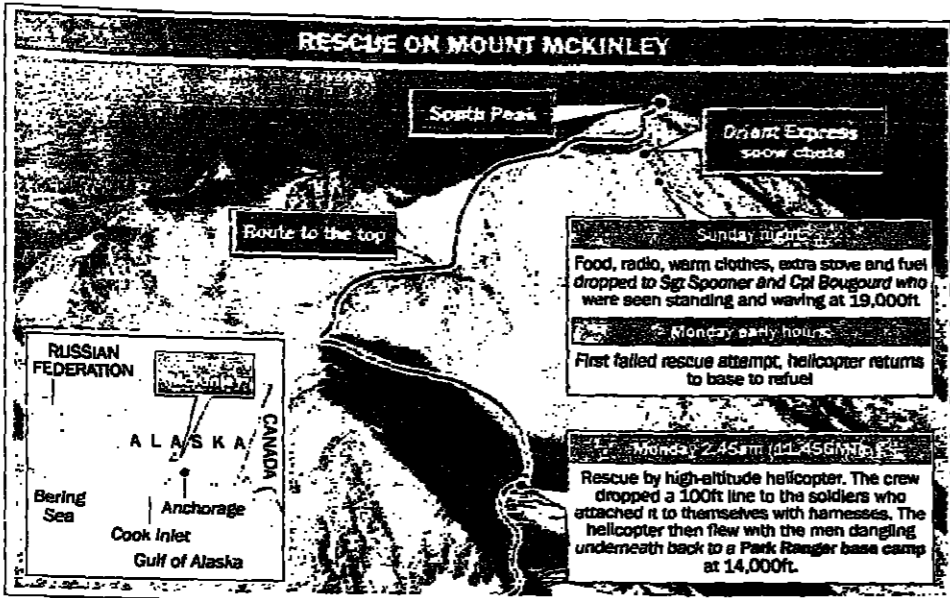
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Soldiers plucked from Alaskan peak



The progress of the rescue, above, after which Captain Justin Featherstone, right, the expedition leader who broke both legs in a fall on the mountain, was prepared for his helicopter flight to hospital in Anchorage on Sunday

Joanna Bale describes the helicopter rescue of two Britons trapped near the summit of Mount McKinley

TWO British soldiers were recovering in hospital last night hours after being rescued from North America's highest peak, where they spent four days trapped without food in a blizzard.

A break in the weather allowed a high-altitude helicopter to reach Sergeant Martin Spooner and Corporal Carl Bougourd, who had been stranded 19,000ft up Mount McKinley in Alaska since an accident on Thursday.

After one failed attempt, the helicopter crew was able to drop a 100ft line to the soldiers at 2.45am local time yesterday. They attached it to harnesses and, with the men dangling underneath, the helicopter flew to a Park Ranger base camp at 14,000ft. They were then flown to Anchorage.

The men, both 35, were said to be in good spirits despite their prolonged exposure to the elements. Sergeant Spooner has a bruised ankle while Corporal Bougourd, who stayed on the mountain to look after him while his colleagues went for help, has frostbite.

The Ministry of Defence said: "The helicopter can spend only a few minutes at this altitude before it has to refuel so it is clearly a great challenge for any aircrew. Both men were in remarkably good spirits." A few hours before the rescue, a helicopter dropped supplies of food, a radio, a tent, an extra stove and fuel.

A National Park Service spokeswoman said: "We are

all absolutely thrilled that these men have been lifted to safety. The mountain rangers and all those involved in the rescue are extremely experienced, but this rescue was delayed by terrible weather."

Colonel Mark Rayner, commanding officer of the First Battalion of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, said: "I can't praise the efforts of the US Ranger Service and National Park enough. The experience and training of the men is such that I was not surprised the rescue mission was a success."

The men were part of a ten-strong British Army training expedition aiming to be the first to climb the mountain then descend and reach sea level in Alaska by canoeing to the coast through rapids.

Problems began on Thursday evening as six of the men headed for the 20,320ft summit. With 1,000ft to go, Sergeant Spooner, of the Army Physical Training Corps, fell 300ft down a gully known as the Orient Express, with Lance Corporal Steve Brown, 26, of the Royal Engineers, and Captain Phil Whitfield, 23, of the Royal Marines, who were all roped together.

The team's leader, Captain Justin Featherstone, 28, and Corporal Bougourd, of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, stayed with Sergeant Spooner and Corporal Brown after the fall, while Captain

Whitfield and Sergeant Jonny Johnstone, 33, began to descend to raise the alarm at the Park Ranger camp at 14,200ft.

Corporal Brown and Captain Featherstone also attempted a descent late on Friday, but fell about 1,500ft down the gully, landing at

about 15,500ft. Captain Featherstone had head injuries and two broken legs. Corporal Brown had head injuries from his original fall and was said to be frostbitten.

Sergeant Spooner's wife, Beverley, 33, was with his parents, John and Barbara

at their home in Leek, Staffordshire, yesterday. She said: "When I heard that Martin was safe I just felt huge relief and excitement. It has been a huge strain just sitting by the phone, waiting for news."

Mrs Spooner, an MoD

clerk, said that their children, Gemma, 11, and Rhys, 6, had been told that their father was "having an adventure" and would soon be rescued.

Corporal Bougourd's girlfriend, Paula Wanstall, 27, of Canterbury, said: "I didn't think he was going to get off

that mountain alive. I feel so proud of what he has done. He has put his life on the line for someone else."

She added: "We've only known each other a short while but it feels as if we have been together for years. When I next see him, I want him to

get down on one knee and propose to me. That would make my day."

His father, David Bougourd, 60, of St Peter Port, Guernsey, said: "This weekend has been the worst of my life. I really thought I would never see my son again. But after hearing the news, today is going to stick in my memory as a time of absolute joy."



Corporal Bougourd, left, and Sergeant Spooner



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PRINUS

Hollow friendship fuels savage enmity

Sinister thugs who hate all things French

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

AGROUP of young Germans, some of them masked, seized an isolated French policeman and calculatedly beat him close to death. They used an uprooted street sign, a wooden bat, their studded boots.

To the French, this is regarded with some justification as more than mere hooliganism. The British hooligan, as lampooned in the press, has drunk himself into temporary insanity. Something inside, a tiny sliver of reason that has survived the beer, wine and spirits, tells him that he is in no state for hand to hand conflict. He throws bottles, he

an integrated Europe, has failed to trickle down into the housing estates and the suburbs. Youth exchanges sometimes help to break down prejudice. Just as often, they seem to reinforce national caricatures. No German leader or minister lets a week go by without contacting his French counterpart. There is an artificiality in these contacts, but Germans say this is precisely the point. Franco-German "friendship" should be full of ritual and routine, for on the substance there is little common ground. The French fear and loathing of *La Prusse* is thus kept in safe confines.

THE GERMANS

yells, taunts with the subtlety of the jungle, he smashes windows, he gets arrested. It is a disgusting spectacle — but rarely more than spectacle.

The Germans who went into France on Friday and Saturday — including 614 category C ruffians — were from a different mould. They did not drink. They used mobile phones to co-ordinate their activities. They had commanders. They were not even particularly interested in football. They went to injure.

What motivates this new, hard-billed form of street terrorism? Partly it is racism. The young men who arrived from Brunswick and Hanover had planned the trip, taken a holiday from work, with the express purpose of causing violence to North Africans living in France or to Yugoslav supporters. Both qualify in the eyes of the German Right as *Kanaken* — a crude, abusive term for Turks or for any foreigner of dark skin.

But deeper than that, there is a resentment by the German underclass of all things French. More than five decades of kid-glove treatment of the French by German politicians and bureaucrats, the transformation of historical enemy into the benign axis of

Down on the street it looks altogether different. The Franco-German relationship should have changed in Germany's favour after unification. Instead, the French wanted to tie down the Teutonic Gulliver. Last week the German mark celebrated its 50th birthday. Germans were proud and sad. Soon the mark will die because that was the price of German unity set by the French. That may be banal or inaccurate but it is the view propagated by far-right parties which are mopping up the popular discontent with the euro.

Only the neo-Nazis say that the euro is an unacceptable imposition. Only the far right talks of German national sovereignty. Only these extremists identify France as problem rather than friend.

That is why the thugs who beat a French policeman on Sunday have a different air. They have been encouraged to fight against an historical enemy to stir the embers of hatred. Who is pulling the strings? Germany is in the throes of an election that may well end a political era. Some sinister figures, rich men with nationalist fantasies, are trying to exploit the mood. It was their thugs who travelled to France at the weekend.

Michael Gove, page 22



English hooligans arrive back from France after being expelled as a risk to public order. All have at least one conviction for football violence. Ray Rafferty, centre, said "mud sticks".

Expelled hooligans flown back in handcuffs

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOUR English football hooligans, expelled from France as a threat to public order, were flown back to Britain in handcuffs yesterday with a police guard.

All four are top-level Category C hooligans, according to the National Criminal Intelligence Service. All have at least one conviction for football violence. One has received six prison sentences in 20 years.

Steven Fowler, 29; Steven Baker, 25; Terence Coughlin, 36, all from

Birmingham, and Ray Rafferty, 36, from Coventry, were picked up while drinking in Toulouse after being recognised by British police "spotters".

As they left Heathrow Airport after arriving under escort on an Air France flight, Ncis officials were predicting that others would follow. A spokesman said: "This will send out a message to those who are known criminals and might be thinking of going over to France to cause trouble."

Rafferty said yesterday: "I didn't go over there to make any trouble. I'd

THE ENGLISH

done nothing wrong. I am upset at the way I have been treated. Mud sticks."

He admitted that he had been involved in violence in the past, but claimed he and the others had been "shoddily treated". Police sources said the Coventry City fan was excluded from matches from September to March. Rafferty has ten convictions, not all football related, including affray, obstruction and threatening behaviour.

Coughlin has been sentenced to prison six times, sometimes serving the terms concurrently, in a record which includes convictions for obstructing police, assault, threatening behaviour and affray.

Yesterday he said that he had not been involved in any trouble since 1981 when he was arrested during an Aston Villa match with Manchester United at Villa Park. He said that he and five others, including Baker and Fowler, planned to watch England's games against Romania — and Colombia.

After arriving in Toulouse, Cough-

lin said that he suggested a drink in a bar and it was there he was arrested. "I had two bottles of Heineken and then this policeman came up to me, arrested me and put me in handcuffs. I was doing absolutely nothing wrong. I do not go to football for violence. I am not a football thug."

Yesterday a spokesman for Aston Villa said that both Fowler and Baker, who have convictions for low-level football related offences, were banned from the ground.

Letters, page 23 Sport, pages 48-51, 56

Germany tells of its shame at attack

Continued from page 1. porters angry at being denied access to the stadium and the politically motivated with only a passing interest in football. At the critical moment both groups shout "Deutschland, Deutschland" and look for trouble in the streets.

In the circumstances, the Finance Minister Theo Waigel said yesterday, the French police have no choice but to strike hard, and quickly. "I appeal to everybody concerned, at home and at the World Cup, to isolate these people and keep them a long way from the sporting centres," he added.

The German Football Association said that it had warned the French authorities that some 20,000 German fans in Lens were without a ticket for the match, but claimed that no action was taken. "It is a time that the state authorities acted strictly against the violent people who are abusing the popular platform of football," the association said. "There were already definite signs that people classified in databases as violent sports fans were travelling to the game."

The association is particularly sensitive on the issue because only last week it encouraged the German media to write off England's chances of staging the World Cup in 2006 because of its soccer hooligans. The call was immediately taken up even by the serious conservative paper, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* which described the hooligans as "a special English creation whose social origin is in the working class, whose habitat is the pub and whose intellectual horizon is confined to an ideological stew of racism and Far Right beliefs".

Yesterday the newspaper condemned the Lens violence, but continued to blame English fans for setting the ball rolling. "The genie of English hooligans has got out of the bottle again and this time German rowdies have shown that this form of modern vandalism is not limited to England."

All is disquiet on the former Western Front

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LENS

THE vicious assaults by the German thugs were a cruel blow for Lens, a bleak northern coal-mining town that stands as a byword in France for old-fashioned, working class devotion to football.

The border town, having weathered the century's military destruction and economic collapse, has depended on the sport for decades to rally an undefeated local spirit. The football world considers the warm-hearted *Lensois* to be "the best public in France".

Visitors from Lancashire or South Wales quickly recognise the spirit of this town of red-brick terraces, which long owed its livelihood to mining and heavy industry. Only the surrounding, overgrown slag heaps remain from that time. Near by, the green fields are studded with war cemeteries and scars of the trenches that were once the Western Front.

The 30,000 inhabitants of the smallest town ever to host World Cup final matches have been in football heaven this year. Not only was the Bollaert stadium, which seats

more than the town's population, preparing for the world tournament, but their team, Le Racing Club de Lens, made history by winning the French national football championship.

The whole Pas de Calais region joined in a week-long celebration for the "The Blood and the Gold", as the Lens team is called, without a

BATTLGROUND

single incident being reported.

Only 20 miles from the Belgian frontier, Lens bore the full fury of the Western Front. The town was virtually demolished. Loos and Vimy Ridge, two of the British Empire's bloodiest battlefields, are near by, and Arras is just to the south. Partially rebuilt, the town was hit hard by the depression and the decline of the coal industry.

The "English-style" stadium was built by the Compagnie des Mines de Lens in 1932. The construction work was given to hundreds of miners who had lost their jobs. Eight years later, Lens found itself in the way of another German onslaught when Hitler's Panzer divisions swept through on their way to Paris.

The town has fostered light industry and high technology enterprises that have flocked to the Lille area, deemed a strategic hub for doing business in France, Britain, the Low Countries and Germany. This easy access was expected to be a source of trouble during the World Cup. A big security operation had been planned for months, under the command of Bernard Henne, the Deputy Chief Prosecutor of the Calais departement.

The main fear was of hooligans from England, which is only a short cross-Channel trip away. Many shopkeepers had plans to draw down their shutters for the England matches. The English can, however, be filtered at the passport controls. These do not apply to Germans, Belgians, Dutch or residents of any of the other countries in the EU's "frontier free" zone.

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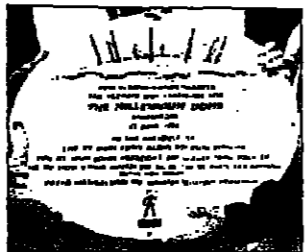
Blair promises 'best day out on Earth' at Dome

By James Landale
Political Reporter

AMID much hyperbole, Tony Blair yesterday "topped out" the Millennium Dome, promising that the structure had a long-term future, and declared that the exhibition would offer nothing less than the greatest day out on Earth.

Mr Blair, who first visited the then derelict site in Greenwich as Prime Minister a year ago, was joining other ministers for a return visit to see how the project had progressed. The ceremony was the latest attempt by the Dome's organisers to counter public uncertainty about the exhibition and secure essential sponsorship.

The traditional "topping out" ceremony ostensibly marked the completion of the highest point of the 50-metre-high dome, and it did not seem to matter that six sections of the Teflon-coated glassfibre roof had not yet been installed. Mr Blair arrived with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, Peter Mandelson, the minister who is responsible for the Dome, Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, and Michael Heseltine, the former Tory Deputy Prime Minister who is part of the ministerial co-ordinating group for the dome. All wore hard hats, fluorescent jackets and wellington boots in the huge,



The plaque laid on the roof of the Dome

covered building site in south-east London.

As a piece of music by Paul Foss confusingly called *The Stock Exchange* blared out, four construction workers abseiled down from the centre of the Dome and presented Mr Blair with a plaque commemorating the ceremony. Mr Blair and the other ministers used a hammer and engraved chisels to mark their names on the plaque which was fixed to the roof.

About 200 building workers cheered as Mr Blair congratulated them on their achievement and said: "This is too good to be torn down. We should have a use for this — and a use that lasts." Officials said that the structure could last for more than 100 years if properly maintained, although the roof covering would have to be replaced after about 25 years.

Spokesmen for the New Millennium Experience Com-

pany said the gap remaining in the roof would be complete within about a month.

Mr Blair said he was relieved to see the progress of the Dome. "People said it could not be built on time," he said. "Today the external structure of the Dome has been built. The masts are up, the roof is on. It is on time, on track and on budget."

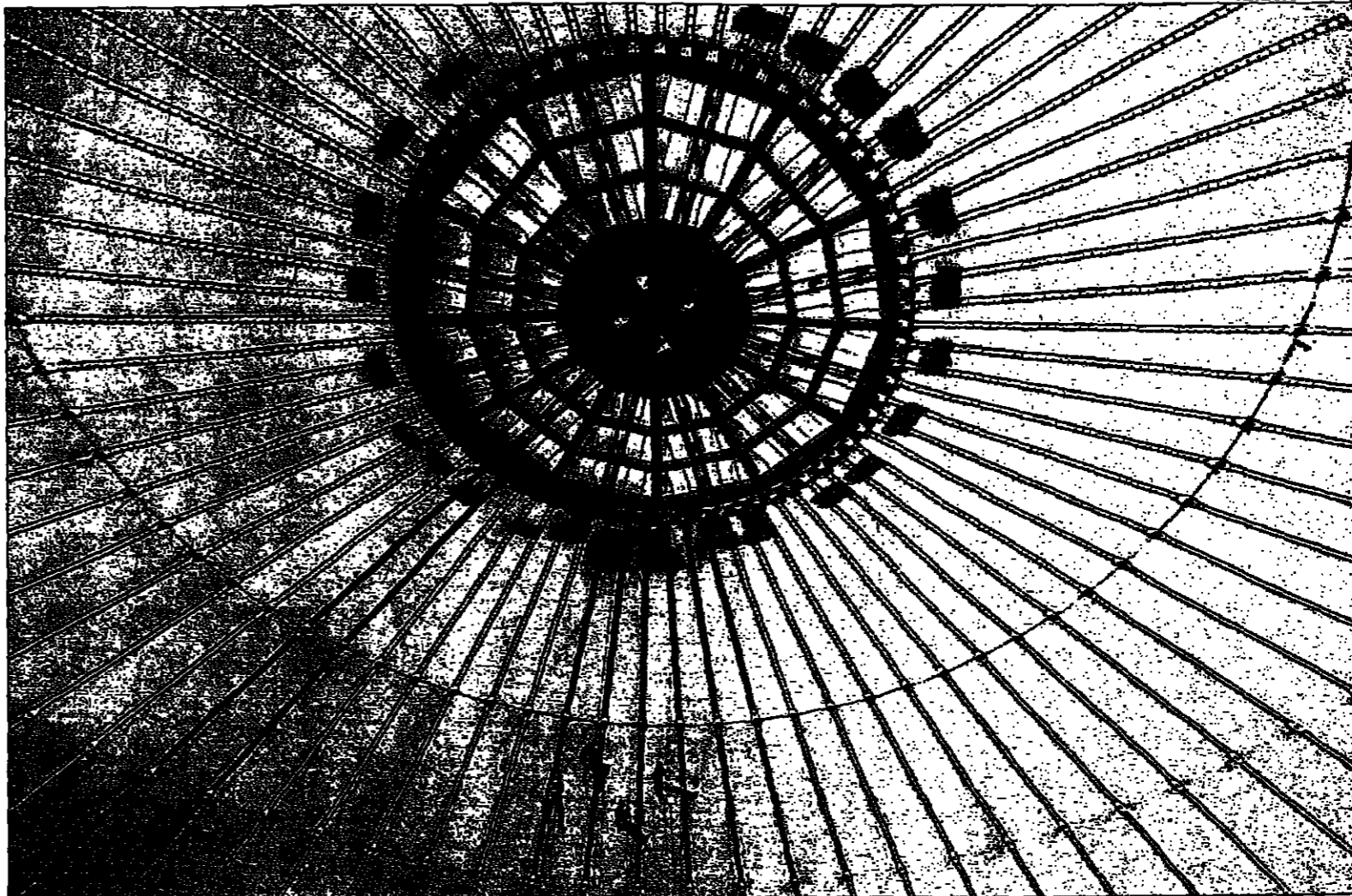
He said the Dome was a symbol of Britain's creativity and imagination and that it would be the most famous new building in the world in 2000. He confirmed that more than £100 million had been raised in sponsorship and they were well on their way towards the "daunting target" of £150 million sponsorship by the end of the year. The total cost of the project is £758 million.

The path had not been easy, he admitted, but "we are on course to achieve what we set out to do — to celebrate the new millennium with pride in our past achievements and confidence in our future. I want this to provide the greatest day out on Earth in the year 2000. That's what we can do."

Covering 20 acres, the Millennium Dome is now the largest of its type in the world. Mr Mandelson said that people would be inspired when they saw pictures of it. He said: "I think people are going to be fired up and they're going to say, 'This is so good, it should not be pulled down. The Eiffel Tower was meant to be a temporary structure but it's still there. I want to see the Millennium Dome here for many years to come.'"

Jennie Page, the chief executive of the millennium company, said that the structure of the Dome had been "an epic achievement".

Ms Page insisted that lack of sponsorship was not a problem, arguing that it had never been their intention to seek sponsorship for the 14 "zones" within the Dome at the same time. "You cannot handle too



Four construction workers abseil from the centre of the Dome to present the Prime Minister with the commemorative plaque yesterday

HOW THE MILLENNIUM DOME COMPARES

Taj Mahal, Agra: 1653
Diameter of dome: 60 feet
Height: 80 feet

Georgia Dome, Atlanta: 1994
Dimensions: 750 x 615 feet
Height (of building): 275 feet

St Paul's Cathedral, London: 1706
Diameter of dome: 112 feet
Height of building: 365 feet

St Peter's, Rome: 1593
Diameter of dome: 137 feet
Height of building: 435 feet

Millennium Dome, Greenwich
Diameter: 1050 feet
Height: 164 feet



Tony Blair with building workers at the Dome

When 'topping' meant the architect

By James Landale

TOPPING OUT is an ancient ceremony that goes back thousands of years. At one time it used to involve a human sacrifice — occasionally the architect.

The idea was to create a protective ghost who would ward off evil spirits. The last recorded evidence of a human sacrifice is in 1817, when a Malay girl was bought and killed for the protection of a building in Borneo. These

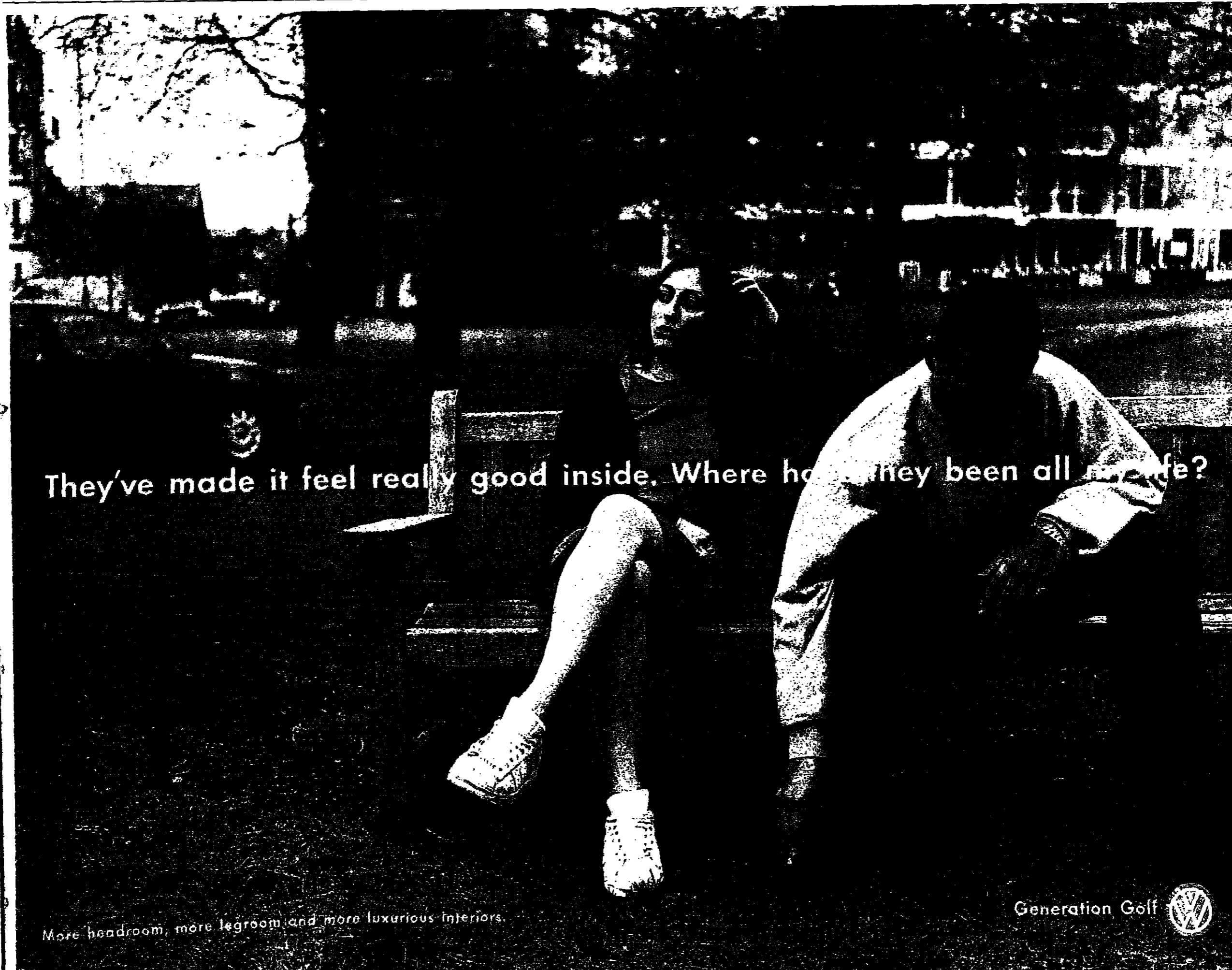
days, in Normandy, a cock is slaughtered instead and its blood poured round the threshold.

Depending on the building, topping out takes place when the roof or the highest point is finished. In modern times, various other traditions have evolved, most of which involve the drinking of much beer and the nailing of a green bough to the roof. The latter custom dates from the time of the Persian empire when the planting of a

green palm tree on a roof garden marked the completion of a house.

The owners of partly constructed buildings were also in the habit of flying flags from them to show to whom they belonged. The Phoenicians, who introduced the tradition into Britain, used to sprinkle wine, oil, corn and salt on the roof.

These days, topping out tends to be an excuse for all involved to have a beer and a few hours off.



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Hospital is accused of letting woman, 81, die

Daughter alleges criminal negligence, reports Michael Horsnell

POLICE are investigating the death of an elderly woman in hospital after allegations by her daughter of criminal negligence by doctors.



Bunty Fry: hospital accepts "shortcomings"

Julia Querzier, the BBC's court artist, claims that Bunty Fry, 81, was denied intravenous fluids and recklessly allowed to deteriorate from dehydration after she was admitted to St Peter's Hospital in Chertsey, Surrey.

She said yesterday: "I don't know why these doctors did what they did. In the absence of any plausible explanation, I can only conclude they considered my elderly mother to be an expendable nuisance."

She added: "It is a cruel, painful and barbaric death. It is very difficult to come to terms with the fact that we were unable to protect my mother from it."

A detailed statement by Ms Querzier concerning her mother's treatment has been handed to police, for whom an independent medical assessment will now be conducted.

Stephen Fash, the hospital's chief executive, has been interviewed by police and has handed over a copy of the medical records. The hospital accepts "shortcomings" in Mrs Fry's treatment, for which it has apologised to her family. Procedures are understood to have been changed.

Ms Querzier has meanwhile lodged a complaint with the General Medical Council that three named doctors

failed to provide proper care and were indifferent to the risk to her mother's life. She will also be calling for the resignation of Mr Fash in a letter to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. "My mother was not seriously ill when she walked into hospital," she said. "In fact she was a relatively healthy lady with a relatively common problem. Six days later she was on her deathbed."

Medical records she has obtained confirm that Mrs Fry, a mother of four who was admitted on May 4 last year for treatment for constipation, a retentive bladder and urinary tract infection, was denied intravenous fluids for three days despite the pleas of her family when she showed

signs of dehydration.

On several occasions, Ms Querzier alleges, she asked her mother if she wanted something to drink and she would nod in the affirmative but seemed unable to open her mouth.

"Apart from absailing off the hospital roof I don't know what more the family could have done to get the attention of the doctors to my mother's need for fluids," she said. "I literally begged them with my hands pressed together in supplication. Her death was totally preventable. Her normally plump cheeks became sunken so that in a matter of days she looked like a concentration camp victim."

Mrs Fry had become so severely dehydrated by May 10 that a hospital crash team, called at her daughter's insistence by a doctor previously unconnected with the case, carried out emergency measures that required cutting into her neck and groin arteries to insert fluid lines to provide the fastest means of hydration. But septicemia and multiorgan failure were then diagnosed and Mrs Fry, a talented illustrator in her younger days, and briefly an auxiliary nurse at the hospital in the 1950s, died in intensive care on May 28.

The hospital has conducted two internal investigations in which two of the doctors named by Ms Querzier maintained they were not alerted to

the severity of the patient's dehydration.

Ms Querzier alleges in her statement to police that after a 30-minute meeting with two doctors on May 9, they agreed to her request for immediate intravenous fluids. When she asked at the nurses' station 15 minutes later when a drip would be set up, she was told the doctors had given no such instruction.

At 6.30 the next morning, Mrs Fry was in renal failure and the hospital telephoned Verduin Fry, the patient's husband, to tell him that his wife was gravely ill. Ms Querzier drove to St Peter's to demand intensive care treatment at which point the crash team took action.

In her statement Ms Querzier says the hospital was "still unable or unwilling to offer any explanation for the refusal to provide intravenous fluids despite my warnings and repeated requests." She alleges that on May 12 one of the doctors told her: "You were right, your mother was severely dehydrated and I can only apologise."

Mr Fash, chief executive of what is now the Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "We did take this complaint very seriously indeed and investigated it thoroughly, and responded at great length. We have identified and apologised for those areas where we found there were shortcomings."

NHS gets big hand for 50th birthday

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A SERIES of stamps to mark the birth of the NHS 50 years ago was launched by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, at a London hospital yesterday. The four-stamp set, designed by Vince Frost and featuring photography by Albert Watson, goes on sale in post offices today. It is intended to show the crucial role the service has played in the health of the nation since July 5, 1948.

The 20p stamp shows two hands forming a heart shape to mark the 10,000 donors who give blood each day. The 26p design features an adult hand reaching out to a child's hand to mark the 1.7 million prescriptions each day.

The 43p version of the stamps shows two hands forming a cradle to mark the 2,000 babies delivered every day and the 63p shows a pulse being taken to represent the 130,000 hospital outpatients seen every day.

At the launch, in the neo-natal intensive care unit at Hammersmith Hospital, West London, Mr Dobson said: "These stamps show how, through the NHS, we all work together to look after one another and how we club together to pay for treatment and care not just for ourselves but also for each other." (PA News)



The four new stamps illustrate the personal help the NHS has given over 50 years

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Epidemics expert was not told of BSE for six months

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's most senior expert on the control of epidemics in animals was not told of the existence of "mad cow" disease until six months after the disorder was first identified, the BSE inquiry was told yesterday.

John Wilesmith, head of epidemiology at the Central Veterinary Laboratory since 1986, said he had learnt of the cattle brain disorder at a meeting with the laboratory's director in late May 1987. Pathologists at the laboratory had confirmed the existence of BSE as a new disease the previous November, and had seen the first case of the disease a year before that, according to earlier witnesses at the inquiry.

Mr Wilesmith said that ideally he would have liked to have been consulted at an earlier stage. "One would hope that one was in at the beginning for a variety of reasons," he said. "It is very difficult to come in part of the way through."

By December 1987 Mr Wilesmith had identified meat-and-bone meal in cattle feed as the most probable source of BSE infection, a hypothesis that remains to this day the basis of government policy to control and eradicate the disease.

Mr Wilesmith postulated that a change between 1980 and 1982 in the methods used to process the feed by rendering plants could have allowed scrapie-contaminated material from sheep to remain infective when eaten by cattle. Most scientists still accept that meat-and-bone meal — now banned for use in cattle feed — was the cause of BSE, but some now believe the disease always existed as an extremely rare and previously unnoticed disorder and was spread by feeding cattle remains back to cattle.

Morning after the night before puts skiers on slippery slopes

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SKIER with a hangover is as likely to crash on the slopes, as one who is drunk, a study suggests.

Researchers found that the great majority of people injured skiing had been drinking several hours before venturing out. More than 1,500 skiers were interviewed and breathalysed for the research into the link between ski-slope accidents and alcohol consumption. The hangover effect appeared to interfere with skiing ability more than alcohol in the blood. There was even slight evidence to suggest that small amounts of alcohol immediately prior to skiing were beneficial with respect to injury.

The researchers set out to discover links between ski-slope accidents and alcohol consumption. Although figures in America show there are five accidents for every 1,000 days spent skiing, it has not been clear to what extent alcohol contributes to this rate.

The complicating factors are that those who drink heavily tend to be sensation-seekers, and skiing is a sport that attracts people who enjoy speed and danger. The researchers hoped to find out whether drink-related skiing accidents were caused by the sensation-seeking urge or whether drink was solely to blame.

They recruited 514 skiers who had been taken for treatment to two accident clinics at a resort in the northeastern United States and 1,054 others who had been skiing without injuring themselves. All were interviewed and breathalysed: the injured skiers immediately after treatment, and the others as soon as they agreed to take part in the survey.

The researchers, from the Western Consortium for Public Health at Berkeley, California, took details of each person's skiing experience and an account of how much he or she had drunk over the previous 24 hours. They then made an assessment of the extent to which the volunteers were sensation-seekers. They found that injured skiers were more likely to be inexperienced women skiers. Generally they were not as keen on sensation-seeking as those who were not injured. This suggested that, in cases where drink had been consumed, it was more likely to have caused an accident than skiing dangerously.

The breathalyser test found that 15 per cent of the uninjured skiers had drunk alcohol recently, compared with only 1 per cent of the injured skiers. However, 85 per cent of those injured had been drinking between 12 and 24 hours before their accident.

The research team's report, published in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, said: "Interestingly, other areas of alcohol research relating to driving and piloting are beginning to uncover the detrimental effects on performance of even mild hangovers. This skiing project adds to this area of concern and if it is indeed a problem then simple breath test or blood test meters might not be sufficient to determine whether a person is fit to fly, drive — or ski."

Amended Index Linked Account Rates

Effective from 23rd June, 1998. Account no longer open to new investors.

	Index Linked Account			
	Minimum Investment	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Net†
1st Issue Quarterly	£1,000	7.20%	7.40%	5.76%
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3rd Issue Monthly	£1,000	6.97%	7.20%	5.58%
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Britain sold wartime Jewish art collection

Family makes claim for £5m works sent to avoid seizure by Nazis, writes **Dalya Alberge**

THE Government is facing a compensation claim for a £5 million art collection confiscated during the war from a Jewish collector on the ground that it was enemy property.

A claim will be lodged this week by Gabor Bedo, 67, whose Hungarian father dispatched more than 150 works, including a 14th-century Madonna and Child and a Renoir still-life, to a London repository before the war. They were sent for safe keeping from the Nazis, only to be seized and later sold by the Government, according to research by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

The London dealer Colnaghi was found to have one of the paintings in its collection. But as the work was bought legally and in good faith, Mr Bedo could probably hope to receive only financial compensation.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, promised in March that the Government would repay assets confiscated from Nazi victims. Mr Bedo, who lives in Budapest, contacted the trust after hearing of the announcement.

The Government announced yesterday that it had appointed Lord Archer of Sandwell, QC, the 71-year-old former MP and former chairman of Amnesty International, as independent assessor for such claims.

By 1941, assets in Britain belonging to citizens of enemy countries were frozen. Research by the trust found that "British civil servants correctly treated the works as 'enemy property' because Hungary became a German ally and, unsurprisingly, they could not distinguish Hungarian Nazis from their victims".

After the war, the Bedo



Portraits of Rudolf Bedo and his wife, who sent 150 paintings and sculptures to London from Hungary. While the couple were trapped there after the war under the Communist regime, the works were sold

family could not reclaim the collection as they were trapped in Hungary behind the Iron Curtain. In 1955, the Government sold the works with little publicity, mostly through Phillips.

Mr Bedo said that his father, Rudolf, could not understand that a democracy "like England could confiscate a fortune of a person who was a Jew, was persecuted by the Nazis and by the Communists. The blow came from those he regarded as friends."

Rudolf Bedo, who died in 1978 aged 87, was a scientist with a passion for art and culture which he shared with his family and friends, a circle of intellectuals that included the film-maker Alexander Korda. His sister died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp but Mr Bedo survived on false papers.

His son said that in 1990, after the collapse of Communism, he contacted the London repository, which had no trace



Gabor Bedo, who is making the claim, and a scene from the family's prewar life



of the collection. He sought the help of the trust, a research and investigation centre with charitable status.

Mr Bedo has a yellowing carbon-copy list of many of the paintings and sculptures and several black and white photographs taken by his father. To obtain a Hungarian export

licence, his father had apparently undervalued many of them to a school or style of the master. They include a landscape with fishermen by Jan van Goyen, the 17th-century Dutch master; a *Mourning of Christ* by Van Dyck; and a bearded man by Piazzetta, the 18th-century Venetian painter

who influenced Tiepolo. Documents obtained by the trust show that the Phillips auction totalled £4,500, with the Renoir selling for £10. The Public Record Office, recording the disposal, described the collection as "packages of household goods". A bank account containing £470 was also

seized. The works are valued in today's market at £5 million.

The trust has also traced the 17th-century Neapolitan Luca Giordano's *St John of Capistrano Appearing to a Franciscan Saint*, to the Colnaghi Gallery in Bond Street, where it was sold for £120 to an unnamed buyer in the 1950s, and a painting by the Florentine master Matteo De Pacino to a North Carolina museum, which acquired it in 1961.

The gallery has another work that once hung on Rudolf Bedo's walls, a 14th-century panel, attributed to the Florentine painter Jacopo di Cione, which was bought in the 1980s for more than £100,000. Stephen Rudge, of Colnaghi, said: "It was a complete surprise to us to discover this. We were an innocent party."

Lord Janner, chairman of the trust, said that the seizure was legal under British

statutes and a peace treaty signed with Hungary in 1948. However, after the trust revealed last autumn the confiscation of hundreds of bank accounts from Nazi victims, Mrs Beckett conceded in March that the treatment had been unfair. She apologised and agreed to make money available to repay victims where the facts could be established.

A government spokesman said yesterday: "Since last year, when the Government's attention was drawn to the issue of enemy property, it has made clear that it takes seriously the concerns raised." He said that an initial £2 million had been made available for claims.

Mr Bedo said that his father collected works of art because he loved them, not as an investment, but it was "a great fortune which was confiscated and it should not have been done so, because we were not enemies, we were friends".



The Jacopo di Cione painting still in London

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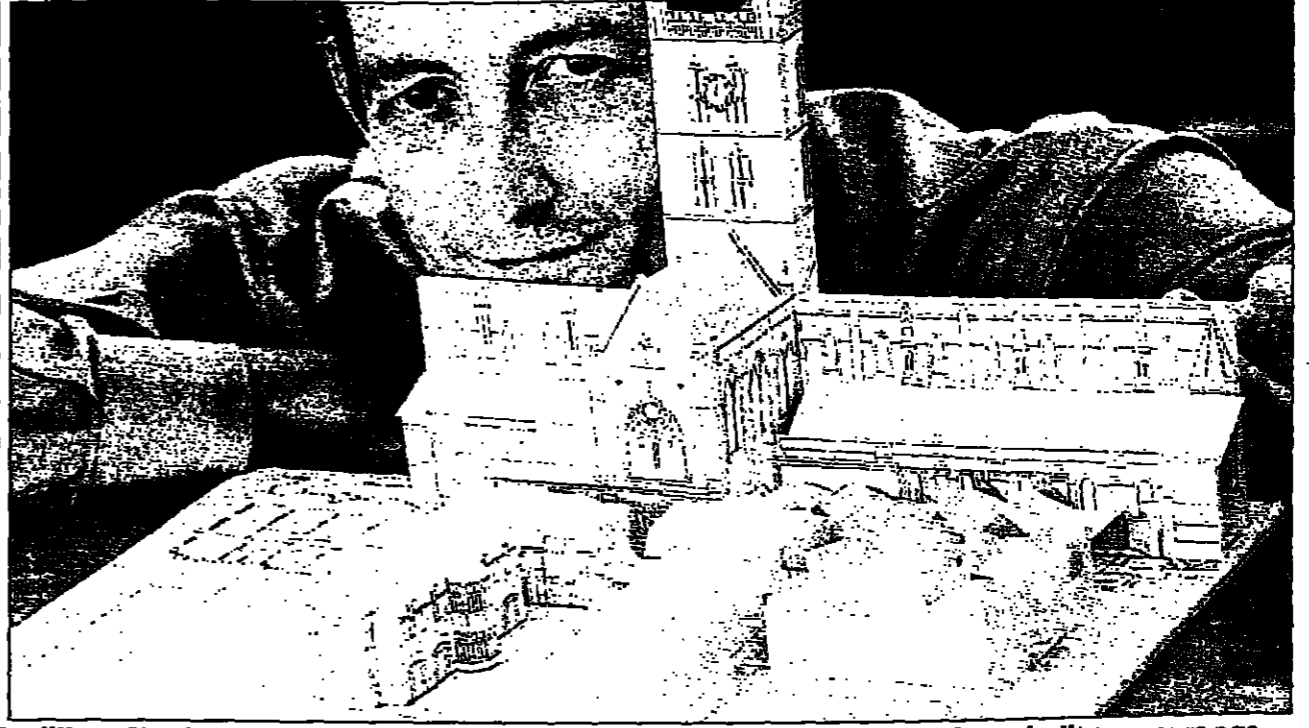
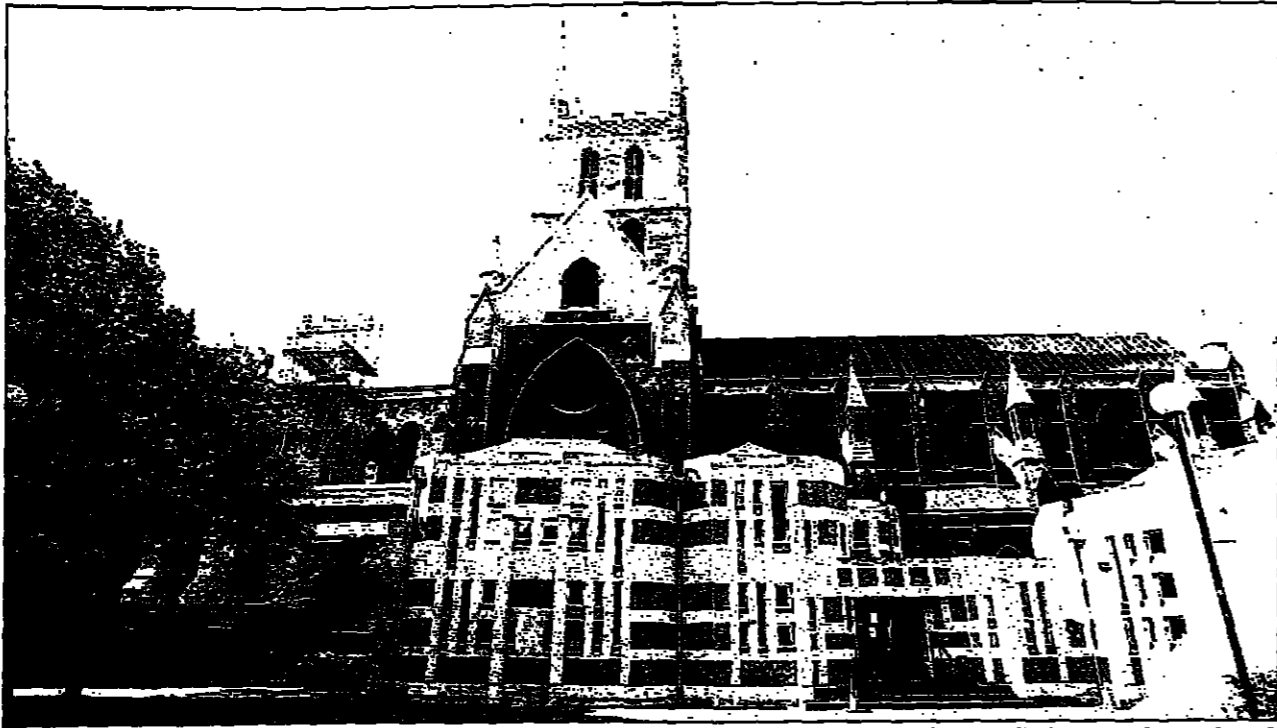
Generation Golf

NHS get big hand for 50th birthday

rning at night before skiers pery slop

Amended Index linked Account

Britannia



Southwark Cathedral, whose buried 13th-century cloister will be revealed by building work costing £8 million. Worshippers have objected to the destruction of the chapter house, front, built ten years ago

£8m lottery demolition plan splits cathedral

Millennium project to create 'spiritual focus' at Southwark angers worshippers, reports Ruth Gledhill

A DISPUTE is looming over an £8 million millennium project at Southwark Cathedral.

Worshippers are protesting that the project will include the demolition of part of a £1.5 million chapter house completed ten years ago and opened by the Queen. Church leaders fear that the plans, to be funded by lottery cash and an appeal, could lay Southwark open to the accusation that it is giving credence to the disposable, consumer society.

The aim of the project is to "recover the memory" of the 13th-

century monastic cloister, now buried beneath a car park, and to make the cathedral the "spiritual focus" of the South Bank.

Plans include a new refectory, visitors' centre, library, shop and space for a girls' choir alongside the existing boys' choir drawn from London day schools.

There will also be an education centre, floodlighting, a landscaped churchyard, an inlet for the Thames and an internal "street"

with a display of Roman statuary recovered from beneath the crypt.

The Cathedrals Fabric Commission is to meet on Thursday to discuss the scheme. Planning permission has not yet been granted.

The new chapter house was completed in 1988 to supply badly needed office space and meeting rooms. But the vestry, organist's, head verger's and other offices would be demolished under the plans. The Provost of Southwark,

the Very Rev Colin Slee, and the cathedral clergy have approved the plans, as has the cathedral council, made up of the chapter and representatives of the congregation and diocese. But at least one member of the council is now opposed. Former members of the cathedral staff are also understood to be concerned. Some senior clergy in the Church of England may protest formally.

The chapter house was built,

using traditional methods, by a family of stonemasons from York who commuted weekly for four years. Funds were raised by a public appeal. Tom Adamson, 68, of the Ebor Stone company, said: "It should have lasted for centuries, if not for ever. I am shocked. Every stone was hand-finished."

Eric Tucker, a member of the Cathedral Council, said: "I am only objecting so far as the demolition of the new building is concerned. It is a bad thing for the Church to raise all that money for a new building and then demolish it ten years later. This is not my idea of Christianity."

But Richard Griffiths, the Southwark architect, defended the plans. He said only one fifth of the 1988 building, the office extension obscuring the view of the north transept, was to be demolished. "We tried hard to respect the work of my predecessor," he said. "But

after the consultation process, everyone realised that was not going to be satisfactorily possible." The present structure did not serve the disabled.

The Millennium Commission said: "The improvements will bring vastly improved public access, improved public spaces and many other benefits. If it appears that there is not widespread support for the project, we would have to look at it again." The commission is giving £3.9 million, with the proviso that the cathedral must find a matching amount.

How scholars found God after 400 years in exile

Dalya Alberge on a missing medieval statue from London Bridge



The oak figure of God

A STATUE from the medieval London Bridge has been rediscovered by scholars. The 15th-century oak figure depicting God the Father is one of just two wooden religious statues to have survived from that period in London.

The sculpture, which is believed to have been made for the chapel that stood on the bridge, was traced to Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire, once the residence of Henry VIII's sixth wife, Catherine Parr.

Bruce Watson of the Museum of London, who found it with John Cherry of the British Museum, said that it had been relegated to a cupboard for as long as anyone at Sudeley could remember. "Such a discovery comes only once or twice in a century," he said. "It had been forgotten by everyone at Sudeley. We assumed it had been lost. It is so

fantastic to track this piece down. It is one of those great surprises.

"So much of London's religious art was destroyed in the 16th century, the Great Fire, or in the Blitz. This makes such images all the more precious. The few surviving objects offer the opportunity to reconstruct what we have lost."

The figure, about 2ft high, disappeared after being dredged from the Thames in 1820-40 — when the new bridge was being built and the medieval one demolished — along with a second figure, of a monk, that was acquired by the British Museum. By 1854, the figure of God had been presented to Sudeley when its owners, John and William Dent, were restoring the house and filling

it with paintings and furniture. Both statues are believed to have adorned the 12th-century London Bridge chapel of St Thomas the Martyr, from where pilgrims used to journey to Canterbury. They were probably tossed into the river during the English Reformation.

Mr Watson said: "We don't exactly know when they were put in the river. We know the chapel shuts in about 1553 and that in September 1547 there's a royal visit of the City of London churches associated with a lot of the destruction of images and window-breaking. The Protestant iconoclasts went on the rampage and emptied a lot of churches. Wall paintings were plastered over and heads knocked off. It was a fantastic

act of vandalism. They didn't have football in those days."

The rediscovered figure would have been decorated with bright paint and possibly gilt, part of the rich furnishings of late medieval churches that used to resemble the treasure houses that have survived in Germany or Italy. In a pre-literate society, Mr Watson explained, stained glass, floor tiles and paintings played an important role: "Churches used to have a fairground quality, packed with colour. That's what makes pieces like this so unique. They are hard to study as there are so few of them."

None of the surviving chapel accounts refers to the statues in any detail. One passage records only that

six "images" had been cleaned and painted. The Sudeley example may originally have held an orb and sceptre. Mr Watson said: "Both figures lost hands, though the Sudeley one has been restored. You'd think they would have knocked the heads off. Fortunately, they didn't do that and the wet river mud kept them well preserved."

They can be dated by style to 1450-1500. The folds in the drapery, Mr Watson said, compare closely with alabaster carvings of that date.

The British Museum monk will be put on show soon and there are hopes of displaying the two in an exhibition on London Bridge. "It would be nice to reunite the two carvings for the first time since the Reformation," Mr Watson said.



British Museum monk

Leading article, page 23

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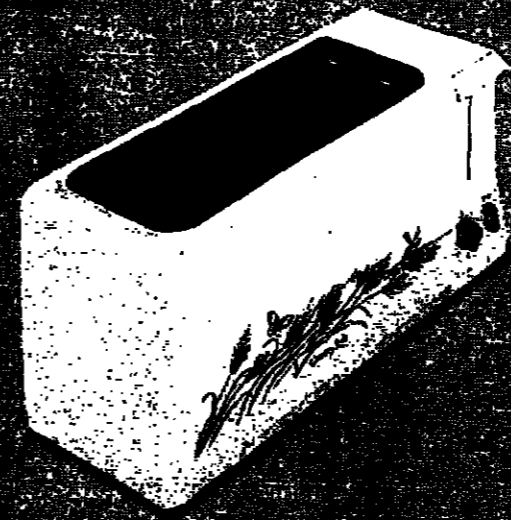
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Student dropout strangled singer who spurned him

BY TIM JONES

A STUDENT dropout was yesterday jailed for life for the "merciless killing" of a talented young singer who had spurned his sexual advances.

Ryan McEwen-King, 21, who was 4ft 10in tall, was overpowered, struck on the head, strangled and then sexually assaulted as she lay dying. She had agreed to be walked home by her killer, Raymond Ellis, 22, after a night out in a pub.

Ellis showed no emotion as a judge at Northampton Crown Court told him: "She was a tiny person. She trusted you to escort her home safely." Ellis, the court was told, had "lied and lied" to maintain his innocence until just days before the trial, but he was trapped by DNA evidence.

Miss McEwen-King, described as bright, bubbly and confident, was a keen karaoke singer and was part of a group who sang in pubs in Northampton. She met Ellis at Nene College in the town, where she was studying music and drama, but he dropped out of his course and drifted from one casual job to another.

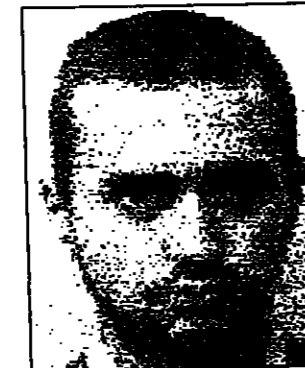
But he was part of the same set of friends and regularly met up with her in two pubs close to an area of parkland known as The Racecourse. William Coker, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that after the pubs shut it was common for male members of the group, including Ellis, to walk girls home.

He said: "Ryan was a bubbly, outgoing, self-confident and well-liked girl. She and Ellis were friends but no more than that. There is no evidence that the defendant's interest in Ryan had gone beyond mere friendship."

On the night before she died, Miss McEwen-King and Ellis were the only members of the usual group to turn up at the pubs and they were seen behaving affectionately towards each other. Soon after



Ryan McEwen-King, keen karaoke singer



Ellis, a "merciless killing", said judge

away Miss McEwen-King's clothing to make it look as if her body had been dumped on The Racecourse after she had been killed elsewhere. When arrested, two days after the murder, last June, Ellis claimed he had left Miss McEwen-King to walk home.

Miss McEwen-King and her killer came from very different backgrounds. She was the youngest of five children from a wealthy and close-knit family. She went to a £10,000-a-year boarding school in the Lake District and loved helping to prepare her parents' Shetland sheep for show at their farm in Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Throughout her life, Miss McEwen-King had battled against Turner's syndrome, which stunted her growth, but was always bright and cheerful. After her murder, it was disclosed that she had graduated with honours from her course.

Ellis, originally from Weston-super-Mare, had lived with his family in a rented home until his father and mother separated. He had, the court was told, lacked a loving, parental background for many years of his childhood.

Passing sentence on Ellis, who admitted murder, Mr Justice Morland said: "She was clearly a talented singer. She was a tiny person. She trusted you to escort her home safely. When she struggled to fend off your sexual advances you overpowered her, hit her and strangled her. It was a merciless killing. As she died you sexually assaulted her in a serious manner."

James Hunt, QC, for Ellis, said: "It is plain that there was rather more friendliness on the night in question than there had been before. He spent the whole evening with Ryan and it seems plain that he misread the signals and when he made advances of a sexual nature and they were rebuffed, he lost control of himself."

they left the pub, at 11.30pm, people living nearby heard screams coming from The Racecourse but ignored them because, the court was told, such noises were not unusual.

The next afternoon, a woman walking her dog discovered Miss McEwen-King's body. Her clothes, had been removed from the scene. She had been struck about the head, strangled and sexually abused. Mr Coker told the court there was evidence that the sexual attack had occurred as she was dying.

Ellis, he said, had taken



Silent bark: a 15ft-high sculpture made from branches and leaves by Robert Bradford at Gibson Mill, near Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire

Ring that changes is at heart of £300,000 claim

By Robin Young

A HIGH COURT judge has to decide from a wedding anniversary photograph and computer simulations whether a woman's ring lost by auctioneers was a trinket or a rare gem worth more than £300,000.

Mrs Williamson sent the ring, which she is convinced contained an alexandrite gem, to the auctioneer Philip Son and Neale for valuation. The company admits losing the ring but contests its value.

Mrs Williamson told the court that the ring had been given to her husband, Brian, a former senior steward on the cruise ship *Mauretania*, in payment of a debt in 1964. He had accepted it after being

told by the ship's jeweller that it was worth more than the Rolex Oyster watch he was offered as an alternative. One of Mrs Williamson's expert witnesses valued the ring at £331,500, the court was told.

Mrs Williamson told Mr Justice Hidden yesterday that she looked on the ring as a retirement nest-egg. She said that the ring had been confirmed as being alexandrite by two jewellers. One had said he was "flabbergasted" by it.

Mrs Williamson, of Selsey, West Sussex, said she had worn the ring on only six to eight special occasions. The only surviving record of what it looked like, said her counsel, James Dingemans, was a

poor quality photograph from the couple's fortieth wedding anniversary.

The auctioneers, who have accepted responsibility for losing a pair of grape scissors, valued at £250, which went missing at the same time from their premises in Chichester, West Sussex, agreed they were liable to pay Mrs Williamson whatever the ring was worth. The firm says it was a cheap simulation worth only a few hundred pounds.

Mr Dingemans said that Mrs Williamson remembered her ring changing colour from red under artificial light to green in daylight, "a property possessed by the alexandrite gemstone".

The hearing continues.

Man, 19, in court over missing girl

By Russell Jenkins

A MAN appeared in court yesterday charged with abducting Claire Hart, the 13-year-old Cheshire girl who disappeared last Thursday morning while walking to school.

Craig Aaron Smith, 19, of no fixed address, was handcuffed and flanked by officers in the dock at Macclesfield Magistrates' Court.

He did not speak during the four-minute hearing and was remanded in custody until Thursday.

Meanwhile, police officers with tracker dogs, frogmen and mountain rescue teams widened the search of undergrowth, open fields and the banks of the River Dane between the village of Eaton,

where Claire lived, and Dane Valley High School, where she was heading.

She was last seen talking to a youth wearing combat gear and carrying a shotgun, stung over his shoulders. Searchers found the missing girl's black coat on Saturday close to the river. Frogmen from Cheshire Constabulary's Joint Underwater Search Unit used canoes to search the river for five miles downstream.

As hopes of finding Claire alive faded, Robin and Katherine Hart, who adopted Claire and her sister, Michelle, 11, four years ago, were praying that she would turn up safe and well. However police said they had to be realistic and that hopes were not high.

Wouldn't it be nice if everyone's body could be guaranteed for the next twelve years?

Generation Golf



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Trimble's vision of a united Northern Ireland

In a pre-election speech the Ulster Unionist leader looks beyond the hatred and violence, writes Martin Fletcher

DAVID TRIMBLE, Northern Ireland's prime minister-in-waiting, outlined his vision of a tolerant, fair and harmonious province yesterday and told the voters: "Give us the tools and we will do the job."

In a speech before Thursday's elections to the new assembly, the Ulster Unionist Party leader urged everyone to unite in "the historic and honourable task of this generation — to raise up a new Northern Ireland in which pluralist Unionism and constitutional nationalism can speak to each other with the civility that is the foundation of freedom."

He appealed for the elevation by both communities of that basic humanity "which crossed the lines between us on the darkest days, the force which made us mark each other's bereavements, and feel for each other's losses as parents, sisters, husbands, wives and brothers."

It was the speech of an aspiring statesman, not of a confrontational hardline Unionist, and received a standing ovation from his audience of businessmen. It even contained overtures to Sinn Féin — the one party to

which he will not speak directly. He insisted that "movement from tactical use of the armed struggle to threatened use of the armed struggle was no movement", and that political debate had to be free "from the use or threatened use of baseball bats, Armalites or bombs". But he also said he would speak to "any group that has the good of Northern Ireland at heart" and continued: "Once we can speak in freedom, once we are agreed that our only weapons are words, then there is nothing that cannot be said."

In another apparent nod to Sinn Féin, he said: "We may come to forgive, but we will never forget what we have suffered and successfully overcome in the past terrible 30 years. But we are ready to move on, to reach out, and to reach beyond where we are now."

His only harsh words were for Ian Paisley and other Unionist opponents of the Good Friday peace accord who could yet win enough seats to undermine the assembly from within.

"Politically the challenge is for men and women of true grit to take a bold and imagi-

native step forward," he said. "Others may fail to understand or may lack the courage but if we fail to take this opportunity our children and our children's children will not be forgiving. To again run away, or to stay only to sabotage the hopes of society, would be irresponsible."

Dr Paisley said that his Democratic Unionist Party would win enough seats to block Mr Trimble's election as first minister and anything else that threatened the Union. Peter Robinson, the DUP deputy leader, said that Mr Trimble's vision was of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin as his partners in government.

The UUP's election campaign has been marred by divisions and disputes over the release of terrorist prisoners, but Mr Trimble sought to refocus on the bigger picture and what was possible if voters turned out in force to elect the astute's supporters. He spoke of "marking the Province as the gateway to Europe" and envisaged its businessmen "telling foreign counterparts: 'Now, together, we re-established Northern Ireland... re-establishing its



David Trimble yesterday: more aspiring statesman than confrontational hardliner

Both parties are wrong on Lords reform

HOUSE of Lords reform is in danger of being hijacked by unthinking populism. For the Government, it is all about the People versus undemocratic and antiquated hereditary peers. For the Tory Opposition, merely abolishing the voting rights of hereditary peers would remove the one independent element in Parliament and create a vast quango appointed by the Prime Minister. Tony's poodles as the slogan will no doubt be.

Both arguments are flawed. The High Tory defence of a continued hereditary element in the Lords, well over half its current composition, is a nonsense. Hereditary peers are not platonic guardians with a disinterested and independent professional political class which dominates the Commons, but they come mainly from a narrow social class. Nearly a half of hereditary peers take the Tory whip, compared with less than 7 per cent taking the Labour and Liberal Democrat whips. With a couple of dozen exceptions, the main work of the Lords is now done by life peers.

accepted that the Prime Minister should not have exclusive control over nominations and that a "more transparent" and independent appointment method should be introduced. He has also promised that a consultative paper on long-term options will appear before the Bill to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers is debated. A joint committee of both Houses has been suggested to come up with a long-term solution, though senior ministers now seem to favour a Royal Commission.

The danger is that such an interim stage could last for a very long time. After all, the second stage of the 1911 Parliament Act, creating "a second chamber constituted on a popular basis" instead of a hereditary basis, has never been implemented. Lord Cranborne, the Conservative leader in the Lords, has argued for a "big bang" including a long-term solution, with the implicit

threat of obstruction of the Government's legislative programme otherwise.

The Government is still likely to opt for a two-stage approach, but the timing needs to be explicit, possibly written into the abolition Bill. It is not just a matter of composition, and the balance of elected and nominated peers. More important, but largely neglected so far, is the question of the powers and role of a second chamber. As Professor Vernon Bogdanor has asked: does Labour intend to strengthen the Upper House or to weaken it? Should it retain its existing powers or act as a constitutional guarantor? How would any changes affect a Commons elected on a different basis, as may be recommended this autumn by the Jenkins Commission? Tony Blair likes talking about the "big picture". Reform of the Lords cannot be viewed in isolation. It must be discussed as part of the broader programme of constitutional reform.

PETER RIDDELL

good name as a place synonymous with industry, talent and innovation and how we put behind us the bitter division, hatred and violence."

He called for tolerance and understanding, especially as the marching season gathers pace. "If nationalists feel they have to protest, my appeal to them today is to do so in a peaceful and dignified way."

He promised to make the assembly work, with "transparent and accountable government", and referred to comments by senior republican and loyalist leaders to suggest that paramilitary disarmament may really be near. He spoke of an "inclusive" Unionism in which all Northern Ireland's people would share the benefits of British citizenship and said that it was time to "jettison the baggage of fear and distrust".

Mayoral contender in private school row

THE Labour Party's search for a potential London Mayor ran into trouble yesterday with the disclosure that one of the front-runners sends his children to a private school (Andrew Pierce writes).

Trevor Phillips, a black broadcaster, had been tipped as Downing Street's favoured candidate. But party officials are said to have criticised his choice of the fee-paying North London Collegiate School.

Although Mr Phillips's decision is not against the party's rules, private schooling

remains a taboo subject for many of the rank-and-file members who will have a big say in the choice of candidate.

Yesterday his supporters said that the bulk of his children's schooling arrangements was evidence of dirty tricks by his opponents within the party. "His children are not standing for Mayors," a party source said.

The controversy causes concern within the party about Mr Phillips. Research has shown that he is not recognised by many voters.

Sporting Hague is beaten by flu

WILLIAM HAGUE, one of only a handful of Tory MPs who planned to vote in favour of an equal age of consent last night, was absent from the Commons because of flu.

Mr Hague has cancelled his entire diary engagements for the week to assist his recovery and his wife, Fiona, has taken time off work to nurse him at home in his Yorkshire constituency. Political observers cannot recall the last time a party leader was forced to take so much

time off when the Commons was sitting.

His officials said he was very ill with a high temperature and blamed the severity of the illness on his exceptional fitness. "He is in the gym three times a week in London. He spends at least an hour a day in the gym over the weekend," one official said. "It means he can easily withstand the common germ. It has to be a stronger one to get him. When he does get it, he really gets it. It is the same for a lot of very fit people. It has baffled sports scientists for years."

Mr Hague takes his fitness

training very seriously. He has taken up judo wrestling under the supervision of Ray Stevens, an Olympic silver medalist. He is also on a strict diet and training routine devised by the Olympic gold medalist Sebastian Coe, who is his chief of staff.

He took to his bed on Friday, the first anniversary of his election as Tory leader, having already decided that there should be no celebrations with his party lagging so far behind in the polls. He has withdrawn from a speech tonight at the think-tank Politeia, and will be repointed

at Prime Minister's Questions tomorrow by his new deputy, Peter Lilley. Mr Hague's appearance at his constituency association's annual meeting is also in jeopardy.

Some cynics at Westminster argued that the illness was a convenient way for Mr Hague to avoid having to risk the disapproval of his party by voting in favour of an equal age of consent. His office denied this, saying: "He is genuinely not well."

Dr Thomas Stamford, the Times doctor, said that fitter people generally recovered more quickly from flu.

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A US fan at the match against Iran in Lyons

US happy at Tehran team's triumph

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration heartily congratulated Iran last night on its victory over the United States in the World Cup, trying once again to signal its wish for a rapprochement with the Islamic Government in Tehran.

"The game was excellent and well played and we wish them the best in their upcoming match," a State Department official said, avoiding any formal mention of football diplomacy.

Privately, however, the 2-1 victory for the Iranian team has pleased many in Washington who believe that the result may further undermine hardline rejection in Iran of better links between the two countries.

The scenes of jubilation in Tehran and the apparent lack of anti-American sentiment during the celebrations provided the Administration with further signs of a change in popular support in Iran since the election of President Khatami, a moderate cleric.

Jubilant Iranians savour victory

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

FOOTBALL-CRAZY Iran was euphoric yesterday after millions spent the night parrying in the streets to celebrate their team's thrilling 2-1 victory over America in the World Cup. It was a moment of joy the fun-starved nation had prayed for.

"Long live Iran," chanted the crowds as jubilant motorists blared their horns and flashed their lights. Ignoring the strictures of Islamic rule, men and women danced together, many with their faces painted the red, white and green of the Iranian flag. Nationalist sentiment was high, but did not translate into anti-Americanism. Nobody burnt the Stars and Stripes and nobody chanted "Down with the USA."

Only Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, appeared out of tune with the national mood when he struck the sole sour note of the evening. In a message read out on state television, he told Iranians: "Tonight again, the strong arrogant opponent felt a bitter taste at our hands."

In contrast, Iran's President Khatami, a moderate cleric who has used sports and cultural exchanges to promote detente with the United States, said that the real triumph had been "the victory of national unity of all Iranians, whatever their opinion".

The explosion of joy should boost Mr Khatami by demonstrating to Iran's old guard, which still controls most levers of power, that it cannot resist his drive to liberalise society and open Iran to the world.

The victory could not have come at a better time, with the President's administration under ferocious attack by hardliners. On Sunday, Hojatoleslam Abdollah Nouri, President Khatami's Interior Minister, was ousted by par-



A woman dances after Iran's World Cup victory over the United States. She was one of thousands of Iranians who celebrated on the streets of Tehran

liament which is dominated by conservatives. The President had said he was vital to his reform programme.

Another key ally, Gholamhossein Karbaschi, the popular Mayor of Tehran, is on trial for corruption and two moderate newspapers recently had their publishing licences withdrawn.

Meranguz Kar, a civil rights lawyer, said of the football victory: "The popula-

tion is getting younger and younger and these people want happiness and excitement like young people anywhere in the world."

Those not tipping forbidden alcohol were drunk on sheer happiness. It was better than winning the World Cup final, one newspaper said. Another said it beat taking ten gold medals at the Olympic Games.

"I have never felt so proud

in my life," Reza, 36, a British-trained engineer, said. "But my heart stopped when America scored just before the whistle." He had watched the game with friends in a Tehran tea-house where the celebrations began the moment Hamid Estili opened the score in the 40th minute.

Like many Iranians, Reza's wife Simin was magnanimous enough to concede that Iran had enjoyed a degree of luck.

"Allah was with us all the way," she said, not wholly in jest. "When we took a shot, when the Americans aimed, he narrowed them."

Some were disappointed to discover that state television, which is controlled by hardliners, had not shown their team giving flowers to the American players. Nor did it broadcast President Clinton's message of goodwill to Iran,

made during the game. "I hope it can be another step toward ending the estrangement between our nations," Mr Clinton said.

Most Iranians share the American President's wish. Mr Clinton's offer to start a new relationship was clearly designed to boost the beleaguered Mr Khatami; however, it could lead to his downfall if he grasps the olive branch too firmly, diplomats said.

Saddam acts to protect Iraq's rich past

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

A BELATED attempt has been launched by President Saddam Hussein to protect Iraq's rich archaeological heritage after years of looting and smuggling, much of it the result of his policies.

Official newspapers in Baghdad yesterday reported that he had told a Cabinet meeting that "antiquities are the most vital properties of the state. They form the priority of the national security."

The gravity of the problem facing Iraq was highlighted earlier this year by 11 killings in Jordan blamed on a row between antiquities smugglers and clients. The suggestion was that organised crime had taken a grip on the trade.

Before the Gulf War, Iraq was an archaeologist's dream. Its history ranges from early Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian civilisations in Mesopotamia to the Greek, Persian and Islamic eras. But archaeologists have reported that looters have stripped many places of their most valuable treasures. They said that some may also have been damaged when Saddam ordered priceless artefacts to be dispersed from the Iraqi Museum in Baghdad in 1991 to save them from allied bombing in the 1991 Gulf War.

Israel may stage referendum on West Bank withdrawal

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ISRAELI cabinet ministers and legal officials are to recommend to Binyamin Netanyahu that a non-binding national referendum is staged on further troop withdrawal in the occupied West Bank.

Yesterday's decision by the ad hoc committee instructed to report on the referendum proposal was dismissed by leaving Israeli opposition politicians and leading Palestinians as a classic delaying tactic. Ministerial estimates varied, but committee members said such a referendum could be organised in two to four months. Israel has never held a referendum in its 50-year history and experts said a

binding one could take up to two years to stage, requiring sweeping legislative changes.

Yesterday's recommendations came as the Prime Minister continued to resist American pressure to agree — as a means of breaking a 15-month deadlock in the 1993 Oslo peace process — a further 13 per cent withdrawal from areas of the West Bank seized in 1967.

The continuing delay, plus moves announced by Israel this week to extend its grip over Jerusalem and bring West Bank settlements into an "umbrella municipality", have brought the peace process to near collapse. Israeli army

officers say pent-up Palestinian frustration could soon explode into street violence.

The European Union yesterday condemned the planned extension of Jerusalem, saying the move would complicate the peace process at a sensitive time. Speaking for the 15 members, Britain said it would alter the demographic balance in the Jerusalem area. The EU had repeatedly called for a halt to unilateral activity in the city.

Members of Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority have dismissed any referendum as unacceptable, arguing that the Israeli Parliament has already voted for further pullbacks.

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Rape victims relive Jakarta riot horror

HORRIFYING stories of gang rape and racist violence are emerging after the rioting that shook Jakarta last month.

Like the looting itself, these attacks appear to have been specifically targeted — this time against Chinese women, many of whom are said to be still in hiding out of shame.

The victims' stories are emerging gradually on the Internet and so far no women have come forward individually. Their attackers often warned them not to speak to the media and told them they could be identified if they did.

Some of the victims were children, according to medical staff and support groups who are trying to help them.

Sandyawan Sumardi, a Roman Catholic priest, estimates that dozens of Chinese women died or committed suicide during the violence of May 14-16. Father Sumardi has established a centre to help the women — Solidarity of the Nation State — and said that many of the attackers had crewcuts and tattoos. This description immediately cast

David Watts, who covered the fall of President Suharto, reports on the hidden suffering of ethnic Chinese

suspicion on the military or the paramilitary thugs often used by the Suharto administration to carry out its dirty work.

In one instance, all the women living in a block of flats were attacked. In other cases, women were singled out, stripped and harassed by being ordered to dance or otherwise humiliated.

One woman told how a

Four 'heroes of reform'

Jakarta: President Habibie of Indonesia declared four student protesters, shot dead by security forces last month, heroes of the country's reform movement. "In my view they are heroes and I declare them heroes," he said yesterday during an emotional

meeting with the parents of the dead at the state palace in Jakarta. "Nothing can replace those who died in this tragedy," he said. "I and the Government offer our deepest sympathies to all the families. We hope their sacrifice will not be wasted."

The intruders ordered the two younger women to take off their clothes and told the older sister to stand in the corner, "because you are too old for us".

While this was happening,

arsonists set fire to the lower floors of the building. "After they had raped her two sisters, the two men said to her, 'We are finished and we are satisfied, and because you are too old and ugly we weren't interested in you.' So they took her two sisters and pushed them down to the ground floor where there was already fire, and they were killed."

"When her mother heard the news, she had a heart attack and died," said the woman who related the story. "Now this woman is in a psychiatric hospital. Sometimes she cries when she tells the story and sometimes she is normal again."

In another incident, a Chinese woman student was abducted at a bus stop, taken to a swamp near the airport and raped by four men. There was a green uniform in the car and she asked her assailants if they were officers and suggested that instead they should be helping her. One answered: "No, I have to give you a lesson. You are a woman and you are beautiful and you are



Looters attack a Chinese-owned shop at Patok Besi, 50 miles east of Jakarta. The Chinese were blamed for price rises

part of the Chinese." Historically, the Chinese community has always run Indonesia's economy on behalf of the military in return for access as a racial minority to the corridors of power. When the Government runs into trou-

ble, the Chinese provide ready scapegoats.

The head of Indonesia's largest Muslim group and an ethnic Chinese tycoon yesterday issued a joint appeal for Chinese Indonesians who fled abroad during the rioting to

return and help to restore the economy. William Suryajaya, founder of the country's largest car-maker, Astra International, and Abdurrahman Wahid, head of the 30-million strong Nahdlatul Ulama Muslim group, also called for

ethnic Chinese to be given greater protection.

They said they were "confident that things will return to normal". But they also noted "great disappointments and deep uncertainties among the ethnic Chinese".

Killing spree after arrest of suspect in Briton's murder

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

PARAMILITARY police have been patrolling the streets of a Chinese city after rumours of random gang killings following the arrest of a man suspected of murdering a British engineer, reports said yesterday.

A Beijing woman who has just returned from the city of Qingdao — a former German treaty port and home of the Chinese beer of the same name — said there were rumours that the gang had killed more than 100 people. They want the release of their boss, who was arrested after the killing of David Earle, 54, of Bramhall, Cheshire, on April 9.

"No one dares go out at night," the woman said. Police were stopping vehicles to check papers.

Earle was found apparently suffocated in his flat after a robbery. He left a wife, Lorraine, and two sons. One of 50 British employees of Cussons, which has a joint venture with a Chinese firm to make soap, he was helping to build a new plant in Qingdao.

After his death additional security was provided to other British employees.

As the economic situation worsens in China crime has been increasing and police

have launched a "strike hard" campaign which has led to hundreds of criminals being executed.

In Qingdao, the chief of the municipal Public Security Bureau went on television to deny rumours that a gang in northeast China — an area suffering especially high unemployment — was running amok. "It is all lies," he said.

Yet earlier, a police spokesman had announced that the police were "going to control the problem".

In China, where freedom of the press is sharply curtailed, news of such events is spread by verbal reports and these are often exaggerated.

After the police chief went on television, but offered few real details, a Qingdao businessman said: "This showed that something was really wrong."

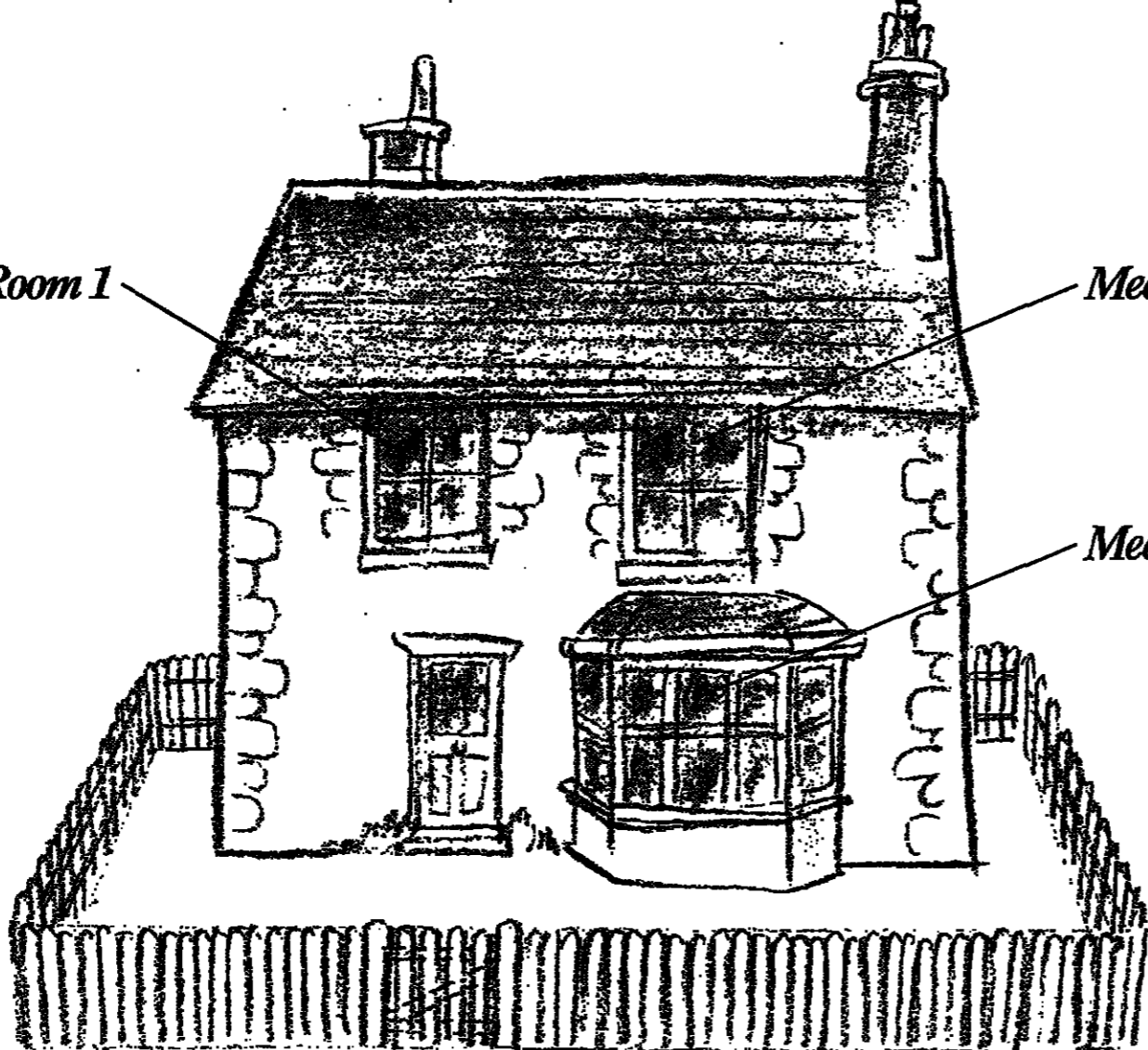
The businessman said that according to the latest rumour, the gang had threatened to kill children unless their boss was released. Latest reports, however, indicate that the situation has become quieter.

A few months ago, a so-called Hammer Gang of criminals from northeast China was broken up in Beijing after several reported murders.

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Germany challenges Euro ban on tobacco adverts

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German Government yesterday made its pitch for the nicotine addict vote by announcing its intention to challenge the Brussels ban on tobacco advertising at the European Court of Justice.

The complaint will be filed in Luxembourg by the beginning of September, weeks before the general election. It is therefore bound to figure in Helmut Kohl's re-election campaign.

A spokeswoman for the German Economic Ministry said Bonn was arguing that health policy fell under the jurisdiction of member states, and not the European Union. Moreover the ban — welcomed by the British Government earlier this year as a "giant leap forward in the fight to reduce smoking" — violated freedom of speech and companies' ownership rights on brand name products.

The German Chancellor, who smokes a pipe, tried unsuccessfully to rally Tony Blair to his cause before the ban came into force. Now his main ally appears to be Austria, which will hold the EU presidency from July, when the complaint will be lodged with the European court.

The EU yesterday formally approved the ban, with Germany and Austria voting against and Spain and Denmark abstaining. Member states will have three years, under the terms of the ban, to remove tobacco advertising on billboards and in cinemas, and four years from newspapers and magazines.

Sponsorship of sporting and cultural events must end within five years — except for Formula One motor racing,

which was given eight years. Tobacco company logos on clothing are also supposed to change to avoid direct linkage with cigarette packet colours and designs. Once the ban is fully applied, the only publicity allowed by 2006 will be in specialist tobacco trade journals and shops selling cigarettes.

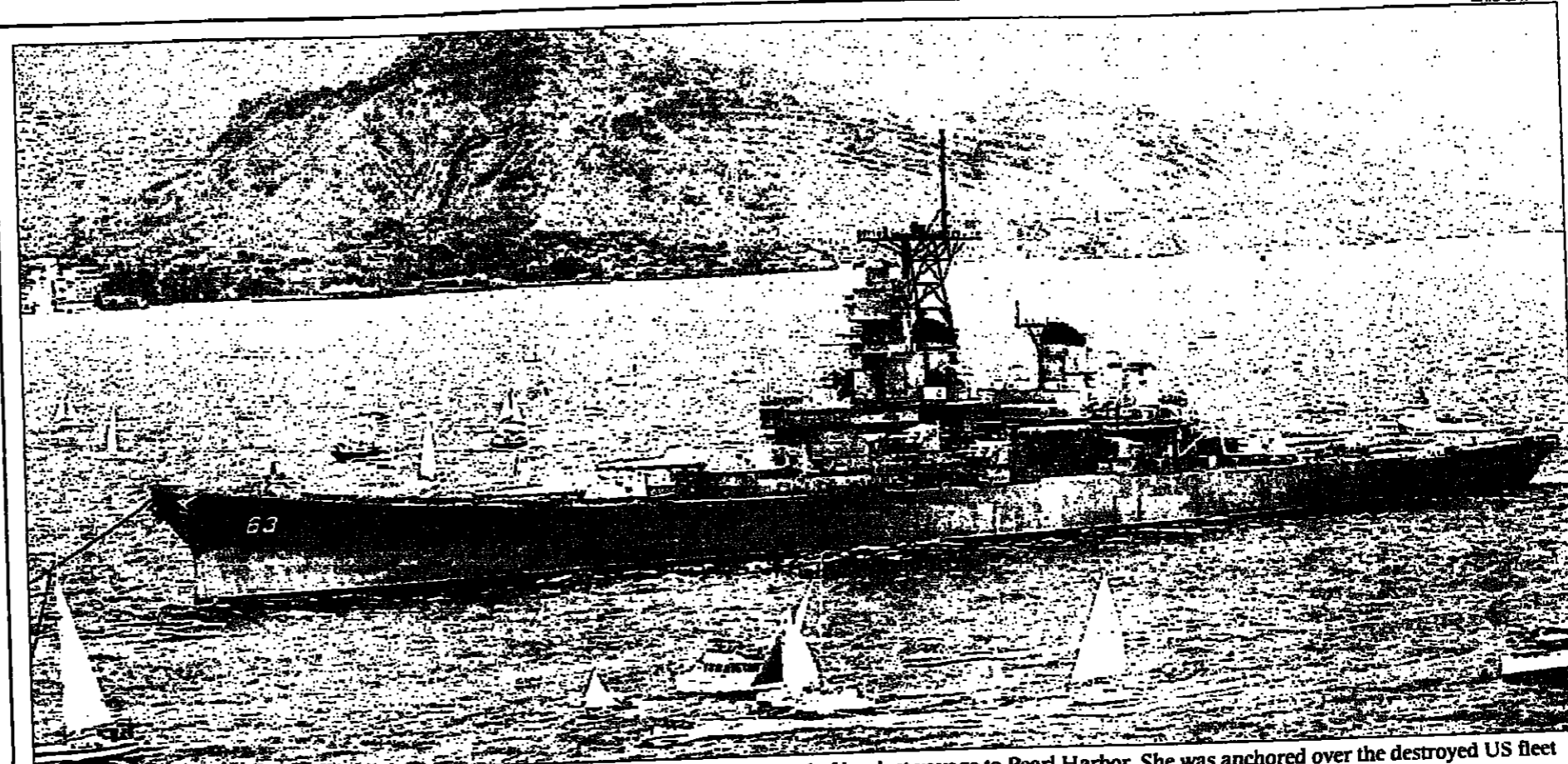
German publishers and cigarette manufacturers fiercely oppose the ban. The newspaper *Die Woche* took the unusual step recently of publishing a four-page supplement — sponsored by British American Tobacco — in favour of smoking.

Pavel Kohout, the former Czech dissident writer, contrasted the new freedom of Eastern Europe, since the collapse of communism with the new restraints introduced by Western Europe.

Opposition to the tobacco ban seems to run across German party lines.

The challenge to Brussels comes as Herr Kohl is striking increasingly Euro-sceptical poses in the hope of winning conservative voters. In the past few months he has repeatedly criticised the European Commission for interfering with German affairs.

Washington: President Clinton is to launch a nationwide survey to discover which cigarettes are favoured by teenagers (Bronwen Maddox writes). The move is a furious but largely futile attempt to hit back at tobacco companies after last week's defeat of new anti-smoking laws in Congress. Conclusions could form the basis of new legal action against the industry or be incorporated into another anti-tobacco Bill.



USS Missouri, which hosted the wartime surrender of Japan, below, nears the end of her last voyage to Pearl Harbor. She was anchored over the destroyed US fleet

Mighty Mo makes final voyage into US history

Giles Whittell charts the course of a naval legend

USS MISSOURI, the legendary American battleship known as Mighty Mo, docked in Hawaii yesterday after making her final voyage — behind a tugboat.

Following a sometimes bitter contest between four cities for the honour of turning her into a museum, the giant vessel is now moored in Pearl Harbor over the wreckage of the fleet whose destruction took America into the Second World War. Her teak foredeck bears a brass plaque where General Douglas MacArthur took the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945.

Mobbed by a flotilla of sailing boats on Sunday, the vessel was towed in a stately loop off Waikiki Beach for 20,000 tourists and veterans who gathered on the shore. As she entered the harbour a Hawaiian voyaging canoe approached her bow in a traditional greeting.

The ceremony marked the end of a 54-year career spanning three wars and millions of nautical miles. Since anchoring in Tokyo Bay for the

Japanese surrender, the vessel has enjoyed a symbolic status in the US fleet. Yet she saw active service as recently as 1991.

The *Missouri* was completed in 1944 after being built in three years in a New York shipyard for over \$100 million. She was the last of the great battleships completed by the US Navy, and the last active battleship in any navy.

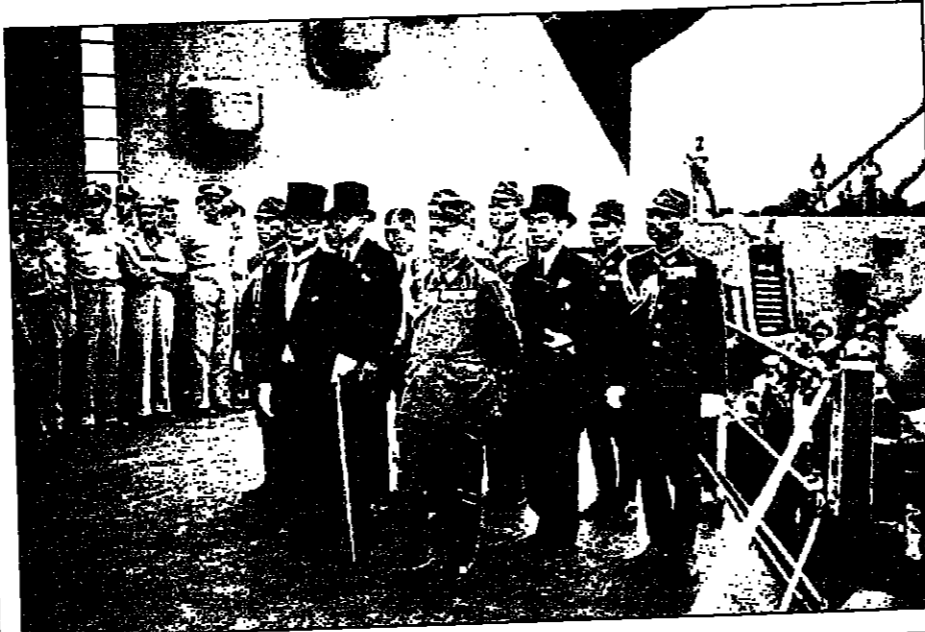
Recommissioned in 1986 after being mothballed in 1955, the *Missouri* later steamed to Kuwait and pounded Iraqi positions with her 16in guns, whose 2,700lb shells each outweigh a Volkswagen Beetle. She was modernised to fire Tomahawk Cruise missiles.

Before and since the Gulf War, the 45,000-tonne ship was anchored at Bremerton, a US naval base near Seattle, where local enthusiasts fought to keep her. They are now suing the navy for allegedly changing its criteria for choosing the vessel's final resting place.

San Francisco and Long Beach, both crucial to the American war effort in the Pacific, also submitted bids to provide the *Missouri* with a permanent home.

As an international tourist venue, Hawaii is expected to attract up to 800,000 visitors a year to the *Missouri*, which will open next January as a floating inter-active museum, complete with "combat engagement centre". Bremerton managed to attract only 180,000 visitors a year.

The deciding factor appears to have been Pearl Harbor's historical significance, however. The *Missouri* is now a few hundred feet from the wreck of the USS *Arizona*, which sank with all hands in the Japanese attack and is the site of the US Navy's most revered memorial.



HOW MUSEUM SHIPS COMPARE

USS MISSOURI (Pearl Harbor) Crew: 2,700 Length: 880ft Armament: 9 16in guns 32 Tomahawk cruise missiles	HMS BELFAST (London) Length: 613ft Armament: 12 6in guns	HMS VICTORY (Plymouth) Length: 227ft Armament: 100 guns
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DIRECTLINE

Tapping happily and learning to laugh

Britain's first workplace 'granny crèche' has brought comfort to many elderly people. Bill Frost reports

An octogenarian with a faraway smile is jolted from his armchair reverie by the opening bars of *Maybe It's Because I'm a Londoner* and the sound of tap shoes striking sparks off a polished floor. He smiles at the troupe of dancing pensioners dressed as Pearly Queens before drifting back to his memories.

Welcome to Britain's first workplace "granny crèche". Opened in Coventry by the Peugeot car company, it pro-

The £250,000 crèche, funded by Peugeot and the British Racing Drivers' Club, is open to anyone in Coventry who has worked in the motor industry. It can cater for 40 people at a time, each paying a maximum £15 a day. Administered by the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, the centre, opposite Peugeot's Stoke plant, is comfortable, clean and cheerful. Club members, as they are called, are fed, given haircuts and entertained — there are art and drama lessons, bingo sessions and exercise classes.

Sheila Cooper, the fund's director of welfare, was determined that the centre would not be "a place where the old were just dumped". At first she resisted buying a television for the lounge. "In too many social services day centres, the old people sit silently watching a screen and vegetating," she says. But, a few weeks after the centre opened at the end of last year, she bowed to pressure from members and bought a set, which is rarely watched — there are too many other distractions.

Mrs Cooper is determined that those who use the centre will maintain their self-esteem, and thinks the label "granny crèche" demeaning. "Descriptions like that take the dignity out of the day centre. People come here to make friends and look after each other — the centre is not a hospital or an institution. Of course, we have some members who are confused or agitated, the early stages of senile dementia. But their dignity is every bit as important as that of other members."

In the "sensory room", equipped with vibrating cushions, a light show and New Age music tapes, club members "chill out" when they are feeling stressed or lonely. "Some of them are never touched, and feel the lack of



Dressed as Pearly Queens, Ivy's Happy Tappers, whose average age is 75, entertain at Coventry's pioneering "granny crèche", where the members have learnt to laugh again



One of many distractions

vides a haven where employees can leave elderly relatives while they go to work on the production line or in the office. In sharp contrast to many local authority day-care centres, the crèche pulses with energy; the old seem to have taken on a new lease of life and rediscovered the gift of laughter.

Ivy's Happy Tappers — average age 75 — are still knocking six bells out of the parquet after half an hour. Minutes later, when their set is over, Ivy Warren insists on standing while we speak. "I don't want to sit down yet. I'm too excited," she says.

human contact; sound and light therapy can really help," Mrs Cooper says. "The vibration of the cushions imitates the touch of a hand and the light show calms them down. Some old people love the room but others take a bit of convincing."

William Wood, 89, is not that keen on the sensory room. "Give me Ivy's Toe Tappers any day," he says. Mr Wood, who describes himself as "ancient but happy", was lonely and confused before he started to attend. Now he is alert and thrives on the company the centre provides. "This place has been very good for me. It is so awful to forget the sound of a human voice," he says.

The granny crèche has also been a "lifesaver" for Wendy Jeffries and Phyllis Hollyoak, her 85-year-old mother. Recently widowed, Mrs Hollyoak was depressed and lonely until the centre opened. "My mind was not being kept alert while I was at home on my own," she says. "I was becoming introspective and depressed — there didn't seem to be any point to life."

administrator at Peugeot, was becoming increasingly concerned for her mother's welfare. She visited her as often as she could, but knew that she was often alone and in despair.

"The opening of the crèche was a godsend for us," Mrs Jeffries says. "My mother was among the first to arrive, and I noticed a change in her straight away. There were people to talk to and things to do. The staff are excellent, and the atmosphere is great — my mother has made so many new friends and a great weight has been taken off my mind."

While Phyllis waits for a manicure ("I had never had one before I came here"), she talks movingly about her husband. "Alfred was such a good man. I miss him so much, but there are other widows here, and we can help each other in our grief. The crèche is so different from places run by social services. The old are just dumped there and forgotten; here there is real care."

Michael Judge, the personal director of Peugeot, says the crèche benefits staff and management alike. He believes that if employees feel their elderly dependants are well cared for they will work

more efficiently. "Lots of our people are carers looking after old and sick parents. When you are worried about a frail relative at home and are distracted by family worries you are obviously not firing on all cylinders at work. We have a responsibility to our workers, but there are practical benefits too."

Before marshalling the Happy Tappers for their afternoon performance, Ivy Warren shows photographs of the troupe in action. They are happy pictures, showing women who will not allow age to mean enfeeblement. "I have worked all over the Midlands," she says. "I have taught and performed — you must remember The Coventry Babes, and then there was The Adorables. We filled every theatre."

Everyone here at the crèche is a friend, so there is never any time, or need, to get lonely. And the constant activity keeps us alive and healthy. Life would be a lot poorer without this place and these people. I only wish I could persuade my husband to come, but he's happier at the pub, bless him."

Epilepsy drug to help depressives

The medication Lamictal, which has previously been used to treat epilepsy, may soon be prescribed to treat bipolar disorder, also known as manic depression. Lamictal, it is hoped, will soon be calming over-rumbustious politicians and exuberant salesmen. Conversely, when they are feeling depressed, the same treatment may lift them from their mire of hopelessness.

The symptoms of mania — excessive exuberance, absurd euphoria, racing thoughts, rapid talking, insomnia, constant activity, increased sexual drive, poor judgment, risk-taking and overspending — are a cocktail of personality traits that could be guaranteed to lead to domestic misery and professional disaster.

so much money for the company.

Characteristically, patients who suffer from hypomania or mania deny that anything is wrong, admit to enjoying the feelings of being high, and refuse treatment.

The sales office is not the only refuge for those with minor degrees of mania. In my brief sojourn in the House of Commons, several extrovert Members exhibited signs of hypomania. One, at least, suffered from a bipolar disorder. He was usually overtalkative, over-

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

People who are manic behave as if they are drunk or high on drugs, although they have not had a drop of alcohol or a sniff of cocaine.

The lesser condition, in which symptoms are much less marked, is known as hypomania. In some occupations — politics and selling for instance — the very idiosyncrasies that make people with hypomania so troublesome to live and work with have advantages.

Some hypomanic salesmen are so successful that they are allowed amazing licence. One fast-talking whiz-kid with hypomania was so consumed with irritability, which is a feature of the condition, that after a row with his boss he drove into each of the directors' cars. No disciplinary action was taken because he made

dominant, insensitive and risk-taking, so I was amazed to find him one day in a darkened office, curled up in a fetal position, monosyllabic and hopelessly depressed.

Mania or hypomania are examples of disorders of mood. More often than not, mania doesn't occur in isolation but as part of the bipolar disorder or manic depressive illness, in which a patient has alternating moods of mania, or hypomania, and depression.

One per cent of the population suffers from bipolar disorder. This rollercoaster journey through extreme moods is devastating to spouses, families and employers. It can lead to any of

the three Ds: debt, divorce and death.

For many years, Lithium has been the preparation of choice for treatment and often effectively revolutionises the life of patients and their families. However, starting a patient on Lithium needs careful thought. It is not uncommon for patients to take it for three to five years and, if they are benefiting, they may be on treatment for even longer. Long-term Lithium treatment can cause renal damage, changes in thyroid function, blood potassium levels and therefore heart rhythm. The level of Lithium has to be regularly monitored: too high a blood level can cause drowsiness, tremor, a staggering gait and, sometimes, convulsions; too low a blood level and they might as well have been swallowing Smarties.

How the sounds of therapy can heal

AS THE musical note vibrates through my body, I feel relaxed yet strangely invigorated. But whether the frequencies emanating from my bed — a cross between a psychiatrist's couch and a sunlounger — are bringing me back to a state of harmony and enhancing me physically and chemically, I cannot tell.

I am in the care of sound therapists Elaine Thompson and Robert Firkin of Street in Somerset. Elaine, 48, is the British driving force behind this therapy, which originated in America 20 years ago. Just as reflexology supposes the areas of our feet correspond to organs of the body, sound therapy presumes our frequency patterns determine our psychological and physiological state.

The use of sound to resonate energy flow goes back to Ancient Egypt; this more sophisticated technique, vibrational re-

training, is still in its infancy, but its possibilities for therapeutic use are emerging, Thompson is confident. "We use high-frequency soundwaves in ultrasound to aid healing; low-frequency sound could be the next thing."

The idea is that symptoms interpreted as stress and disease are caused partly by frequency imbalance. "We retrain the brain to make the missing frequency by playing back an appropriate sound formula," she says. The brain then resumes communication with the parts of the body from which it has been cut off.

Thompson analysed my voice with a Bio-Acoustic Technical Services Program. Then a more advanced program provided a spectrograph wave print. Using intuition, sensors and microphones, she calculated the sounds she thought would be beneficial. Some were calming; only

one was unpleasant. According to Thompson, muscular disorders, pain relief and sports injuries have benefited.

Thompson has worked extensively in Germany, particularly at the Klinikzentrum Bad Sulza, near Weimar, which combines conventional medicine with other healing methods. There, Micky Remann, a clinic spokesman, said sound therapy had helped a man crippled with polyarthritis to walk unaided.

However, Dr John Kirwan, head of rheumatology at Bristol University, says: "It's easy to claim success with arthritis because it is so variable, but you have to prove why it's helpful. Some aspects of complementary medicine seem to do patients some good, but they may be doing good for different reasons."



Elaine Thompson: confident

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Love hides the Hurt

John Hurt's turmoil is now over. Interview by Noreen Taylor, photograph by Des Jenson

The last time I met John Hurt I wasn't at all impressed. He had just finished *Scandal*, the film about the Sixties Keeler-Profumo drama in which he played Stephen Ward, and we lunched at Wiltons. Morose, unhelpful, he barely touched his food, looked as though he might burst into tears at any moment, and I left thinking what a sad, depressed man.

Imagine my surprise then, nine or so years on, at meeting him once again. This time he is smiling and looks younger, with his face lightly tanned. Dressed in elegant top-to-toe black, he bounds into the room, hands outstretched, brimming with vitality.

"Yes," he says, "I'm a different person, and it's everything to do with being in love. For two years I've been with a woman who is my lover, my partner, who travels everywhere with me, and looks after me. I don't know what I'd do without her. That's why I look so brushed-up and happy."

The woman is Sara Owens, who once worked for John's friend, Gareth Browne, the Guinness heir, when he campaigned to stop a tourist centre being built near his Irish house, Luggala, in Co Wicklow. "It's love," he says again, but adds: "It's a situation fraught with difficulties, which I can't talk about."

Those "difficulties" arise from the amazingly complicated circumstances following Hurt's previous marriage, his third, to Jo Dalton, a production assistant he met on the set of *Scandal*. During their marriage, Jo fell for Sara's brother, Darragh, and Hurt was so devastated by the split that he went back to his second wife, Donna Peacock. He returned to the house they had bought in Kenya, and from which he had deserted her in 1988, when she was having fertility treatment, in favour of Jo.

During this brief reconciliation, Donna told *Hello* magazine: "I might be wrong, but I don't believe there will ever be another woman. I've told John that all he has to do is to give me a loaded revolver and I'll do the rest myself."

He says now: "I should never have gone back. Never! Big mistake. But I felt so guilty, so shabby about the way I'd gone off and left her. I felt awful about treating Donna like that and I was in pieces when I went back to her, in a terrible state. I was probably



An actor and his lines: John Hurt has revitalised his private life and has won rave reviews for his latest film role



Hurt with his third wife Jo Dalton, who deserted him

all the issues that had driven us apart in the first place reared up again. Awful! Terrible mess! I get the feeling I haven't heard the last, either." Regrets, remorse, repentance. His has been a life lived on emotional peaks and troughs. His longest relationship ended tragically when his partner of 16 years, Marie Lise Volpeliere-Ferrot, died in a riding accident in 1984.

Two young sons from his marriage to Jo finally brought the sobering responsibility of fatherhood. "It came late to me, in my fifties, but one's love for children is the opposite of intellectual, almost animal."

They live with their mother in Kildare, in the Irish mansion that went to Jo as part of their divorce settlement, while John and Sara share a rented cottage in Co Wexford.

"My sons' lives are so different from my childhood, thankfully. They are surrounded by unconditional love and security. My father was a clergyman and I was brought up by fear and bullying, which leaves its mark on you. To this day I cannot bear to be near people who conspire to hurt. Some people know exactly

which buttons to press — in both work and relationships — and that makes me angry. When I escaped from that ecclesiastical morass, I felt quite lost. Finding the acting fraternity was such relief. It was paradise to know that such people existed: kind, graceful, competitive certainly, but so different from those I'd grown up with."

Now 58, the award-winning star is one of Britain's most accomplished actors. Among his many memorable roles are those of the hideously deformed John Merrick in *The Elephant Man*, the junkie prisoner in *Midnight Express* and the dusty camp Quentin Crisp in *The Naked Civil Servant*. He rarely stops working. "Thank God! There are so many good actors driving minicabs. Eleven months was the longest rest for me and I didn't much like it."

His latest film, *Love and Death on Long Island*, in which he plays an elderly English academic, a distinguished *homme de lettres*, who falls obsessively in love with one of America's cheesiest teen idols, has received ecstatic reviews in the States. As a tortured widower, Hurt collects cuttings, pictures and videos of the beautiful boy — played by Jason Priestly — who bears his life apart. "I'm not sure it's a film about being gay," says Hurt. "It examines the nature of obsession, a glorious emotion. Everyone who saw the script wanted to do it. The minute I read it I knew it was one of those

dream projects that had to be grabbed." Despite the cascade of starring roles, he claims he is not wealthy. "Comfortable enough, but rich, no. Would that I was, but I've had too many relationships and marriages for that. Clean states, you see. Except they never end up that way. Too many scratches. In my relationships no one ever had to ask for housekeeping."

"If I had my life to live over again, I don't know if I could have lived any differently. What I am now, the man, the actor, is a blend of all that has happened, and I can't strip away any of those cumulative layers."

"Since I'm so hopelessly ruinous with money, given the chance again, I would probably structure my finances. Houses, paintings, they've all gone after the mess of my marriages. Sara and I have to find some new centre to our lives now. And some money."

That centre will be somewhere in Ireland, a country he fell in love with during the Sixties when he used to stay with John Huston, the director, in Galway. "I put one foot on Irish soil, and that was it. Home. I never wanted to leave. Huston had this beautiful place, where he played squire, holding the world's greatest collection of pre-Columbian art."

"He used to hunt, as master of the Galway Blazers. His stables were filled with horses and his house had incredible characters."

"Acting introduces you to wonderful people. I believe acting is a gift, something you do because you're good at it and enjoy working. I don't believe our American cousins always have the same reasons for acting. Position, money, fame seem to them synonymous with the profession. Those are trappings that have nothing to do with the job."

"Of course, I have doubts about what I do. Is it worth anything in the end? Does it have any real value in terms of society? There are, I've decided, no simple answers."

He sighs and lights another cigarette. A star who chainsmokes: he must empty rooms in Hollywood. "I stopped for ten days recently. Then I found myself in Madeira, having lunch with a group of French people, all of them happily lighting up and puffing away. I couldn't resist."

He smiles to himself, happy with his helplessness in the face of temptation. It could be a summary of his life so far.

Cruella was what we really wanted

Could we not have heard Louise Woodward's raw, childlike responses, asks Grace Bradberry

Louise Woodward endured trial by jury and was found guilty. Now, by volunteering for trial by television, she has provided us, the British public, with a chance to judge for ourselves.



Woodward last night

There was of course no medical evidence, no opposing arguments, no witnesses for the prosecution. The cross-examiner last night was Martin Bashir, the man who forelock-tugged his way through the willing confessions of Diana, Princess of Wales. Woodward, 20, was hardly taking a risk — Bashir wasn't likely to bowl a Paxman-style googly.

There is, however, a curious justice in it all since several commentators believe that the jury in Boston found Woodward guilty of the murder of Matthew Eappen (the judge reduced the sentence to manslaughter) not primarily on the evidence but on her performance in the witness box. As the Bible says, there's a time to laugh and a time to cry, and Woodward got it all wrong. Just as she ought to have been weeping, she was giving those quiet little smiles that sent a chill through the American soul.

Last night she had a second chance to get it right with the constituency that matters most to her: the British. From the look of it, she had received more coaching than Alan Shearer, but will it do her any good? "Woodward does a Di on *Panorama*," snarled *The Sun*, and it's true that her hands rested in her lap, her hair highlighted. The makeup was similar, too — heavily accentuated eyes, pale lips. But, if you're trying to establish your innocence, you would hardly go for blood-red lips and nails.

What were we expecting? A smirking Cruella de Ville looking straight at camera and saying "I got away with

it" before breaking into demonic laughter? Well yes, in a curious way, that is what we were looking for.

Rationally, we know that Richard Nixon was right when he said: "No television performance takes as much preparation as an off-the-cuff talk." Irrationally, we think we can watch a one-hour documentary and settle for good the did she/didn't she question hanging over Woodward.

This is hopelessly naive, according to Steve Ellis, who coaches everyone from politicians to royalty in the art of the television appearance. "You don't see the truth on television," he says bluntly. "Virtually every day of my working life I train people who arrive inarticulate, unable to get a message out, with the most atrocious body language. Five hours later, they've learnt a few techniques and they make an entirely different impression."

"Of course, those people may have been honest and truthful in the beginning. I've known people be found guilty when they were probably innocent just through body language."

Apparently, the last thing we should have expected from Woodward last night

was spontaneity. "I would not have expected there to be any original thinking in the interview," says Ellis. "She will have been trained in coming back to questions with her agenda and sticking to her prepared words."

Both here and in America, it is common practice to coach defendants before they give evidence. The big difference is that, in America, the defendant can be coached not only on how to deliver their message but on what that message should be.

So, if Woodward was coached for the trial, why didn't she present herself better? She may well be innocent, but in this age of media awareness we have an image of what innocence looks like, and there is now an industry dedicated to presenting the appropriate reactions.

She is now in a better position to defend herself. Not only is she free, she also has a purpose in life — to prove her innocence — and plenty of opportunities to pursue that purpose. She has been forced to make adult decisions and has had a chance to make adult choices — *Panorama* rather than *ITN*, for example, Bashir rather than Paxman.

Whether Woodward consciously emulated the late Princess or not, merely knowing that she was commanding the same television slot, on the same flagship series with the same interrogator, must have done something for her confidence.

All the same, the lasting image of Woodward will surely be a sound — that of her choking, childish sobs as she was convicted. If Woodward is innocent, or even if she killed accidentally, wouldn't it have been better for everyone if she could have heard her raw, responses, as uncertain as we might expect from a young woman her age?

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PAINTINGS
Paula Rego remembers Portugal
THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE
Lloyd Webber's latest reaches the West End
FACING PAGE



GALLERIES: Richard Cork takes a tour through the unsettling ambiguities of Peter Doig's beguiling frozen landscapes

Cold comfort in a land of snow

Viewed from afar, the flax-haired woman in the canoe seems to be lost in a contented reverie. Right arm dangling from the vessel, she trails her hand in the milky water. As we approach Peter Doig's *Canoe-Lake*, though, the dream seems to go sour. The woman's eye, punched out of a curiously green face, looks like a black cavity. Her head flops forward with the slackness of a corpse, and the dark expanse stretching across the base of the picture has a funereal air. As for the thin trees fringing the lake, they seem to be caught in the glare of a searchlight.

This complex mood, halfway between idyll and nightmare, haunts most of the work in Doig's outstanding exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Born in Edinburgh but taken to Canada while still a baby, he returned here only at the age of 21. Those formative years permeate everything he paints. He returns, time and again, to a quiet locale where boats, mountains and jetties predominate. Snow often lies on water and land alike, and its imminence is felt even in settings where whiteness cannot be found. At once masking and clarifying the remote locations he prefers, the snow adds to the ambiguity. For even as its coldness accentuates the sense of danger, it enhances the pictures' ability to beguile.

Doig must know the perils of dwelling on such seductive terrain. But he never makes the mistake of serving up fodder fit for tourist brochures. Nor does he rely on the allure of family snapshots, however much his paintings may seem to take photographs as their springboard. The figures his works contain are invariably isolated, such as the woman marooned in the canoe.

The earliest canvas on show, the 1991 *Young Bean Farmer*, presents the landscape as a place of agoraphobia rather than delight. Leaving the white buildings far behind, the boyish farmer has been reduced to a blurred shadow. The orange earth around him looks scorched, and the crimson strokes smeared across its surface suggest that it will soon be hot enough to catch fire. Perhaps suspecting the conflagration to come, the figure seems on the point of breaking into a run. But heat is not his only concern. The sky is choked with snow-laden cloud, and the branches hanging in the foreground are glittering with hoarfrost. If Doig takes liberties with his supposed locations, he also indulges



Strange relations: seen at close range, what seems at first glance to be an idyll in Peter Doig's *Canoe-Lake* turns into an altogether more nightmarish study of isolation

in a supple variety of mark-making. Seen close to, the painting called *Blotter* is alive with flicks, blots, trails and flurries of pigment. But when we move back from the canvas, it turns into a coherent, intently observed image of a boy standing on snow-spattered ice. Like so many figures in Doig's work, he is alone. The stripped winter forest beyond is uninhabited, and fresh flakes still drop on the snow piled on her bedroom floor, humming tirelessly through parted lips, painting the pictures which swim through her mind.

Awestruck and solitary, he is a spiritual descendant of the figures who gaze at the sea or mountain-top mists in Caspar David Friedrich's paintings. Doig is a latter-day northern Romantic, and he conveys a sense of the sublime in a dipych called *Ski Jacket* dominated by towering peaks. Their magisterial presence reduces the skiers to insignificant, barely identifiable patches of colour. In this case, though, Doig's broken brushwork is as sensuous as the dappled patchwork handling in late Bonnard.

In *Jetty*, an elongated figure stands on the wet, snow-stained planks. Dwarfed by the mountain beyond, he appears to be gazing expectantly at a boat on the lake. Night has arrived, and the only remaining light is provided by the moon. Everything, including the fir trees in the foreground, lacks substance. The painting is as vaporous and elusive as a fast-fading dream.

Even in daytime, this feeling of transience remains inescapable. At his most lighthearted, Doig partially obliterates the body of a standing boy with snowballs. As if thrown by an energetic action painter, thick clumps of white pigment hit the canvas with playful aplomb. But one of them smashes into the boy's face, obscuring his features so much that he becomes unidentifiable.

Doig is fascinated by robbing his people of corporeal solidity. Most of the space in *Reflection* (What does your soul look like?) is occupied by water containing the silhouettes of trees and, at their centre, the figure whose real feet stand at the top of the picture. Is the figure lost in Narcissus-like admiration of his own image? Or could he be dejected, finding in the water's snow-scattered surface a melancholy confirmation of his depression?

AROUND THE GALLERIES

WITH the country in the grip of the World Cup, there has been a rash of fancy photographic and installation shows. However, actual art devoted to football has been largely ignored. But this week, dealers James Huntington-Whiteley and Nick Potter have moved into Gallery 27 with a fascinating anthology of football art called *Muddled Oats*. It does include a small section of signed photographs and memorabilia, but it is much more concerned with painting, drawing, sculpture and printmaking. In particular, it evokes a 1953 exhibition, *Football and the Fine Arts*, by reassembling such splendid pieces from sometimes improbable artists as Paul Feiler's almost abstract *Mousehole v Paul* and Peter Peri's wonderfully bleak etching *The Village Game*. Other artists who have been drawn to the subject include William Roberts, Paul Nash and Eric Gill. And if you want to know where all this madness started, there are artists as early as Rowlandson and Robert Cruikshank to tell you. Gallery 27, 27 Cork Street, W1 (0171-624 0664), daily 10am-8pm until Saturday.

THE COMING of summer generally heralds a widespread rummaging in stock rooms to put on miscellany shows. Though this sounds like a stopgap, many such shows are worth more than a casual glance, especially those devised by experts such as Chris Beetles, Frost and Reed or Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox. The Beetles Gallery has always been interested in British illustrators, cartoonists, and several specific (often neglected) artists such as Albert Goodwin, Charles Knight, Karl Hagedorn and Stanley Roy Badman. All are well represented in the *Summer Show 1998* but the best thing about Beetles is the way he mixes "fine art" and illustration so as to make us think again about the standard pigeonholes. Frost and Reed stick to the French succession from Pissarro to Fujita, and come up with some stunners from lesser-known artists, including three fine oils by Suzanne Valadon, Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox offer their habitual summer selection of 19th and early 20th-century drawings and oil sketches, mostly by French artists, great and not-so-great. Look out for Eduardo Garcia Benito's *Les deux cousines* and Victor Lagerstrom's *Le vaisselier*. Perhaps you have never heard of either artist, but with work of such elegance and grace, who cares? Chris Beetles, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, SW1 (0171-839 1603), Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until July 31. Frost and Reed, 2-4 King Street, St James's, SW1 (0171-839 4645), daily 9am-5.30pm, until Friday. Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox, 38 Bury Street, SW1 (0171-930 6422), Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, until July 27.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Rego's *Girl With Gladioli and Religious Figures*

As an only child growing up in an austere Portuguese household, painfully shy of company, afraid of an outside world of scuffling hens and fierce dogs and flies, Paula Rego found refuge in drawing. For hours on end she would spreadeagle herself on her bedroom floor, humming tirelessly through parted lips, painting the pictures which swim through her mind.

She doesn't draw like this any more. "I am too old to lie down on the floor now," she says. "I probably wouldn't be able to get up again." Yet her paintings, now on show at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, seem to hark more directly than ever back to this childhood time. Though all her works - dark nursery-rhyme etchings, troublingly humanoid animals, disturbing sexual fantasies - have shown the cruelty and magic of some twisted fairytale, this current exhibition, Rego says, is more Portuguese than anything she has ever done before. "It has come naturally, quite unforced, straight from the feelings."

An artist haunted by the sins of the father

Paula Rego has returned to her Portuguese roots for her latest work. Rachel Campbell-Johnston reports

A novel by the 19th-century Portuguese writer Eça de Queiroz: *The Sin of Father Amaro*. A black comedy of morbid pieties and confused passions, this tale, set in a repressive, provincial world, tells of a pampered young cleric and his sexual desire for a girl who loves him not in spite of, but because he is a priest. Though Rego's work always amounts to far more than illustration, the dark Baroque mood and tense eroticism of this novel seem to trigger her imagination. There is a sinister gleam in the menacing costume drama of faith, lust and femininity that she creates, made more powerful by the swarthy beauty of a

male model. Men have only played a minor role in her previous work. Yet the sheen of dark bombazines and the flicker of white lace which dominate these paintings take their cue as much from the four Murillo portraits which hang alongside her own, as from the glimpses of underwear and the rustle of silk dresses which fire Father Amaro's guilty passions in de Queiroz's novel. "I like dressing up people in pictures," Rego says. "It's very much like dressing up dolls when you are small." Working always from models, she builds up her pastels in layer after layer, smoothing and smearing, then raking and

stabbing, to create a rich, glowing picture surface. As always, a tense psychological atmosphere characterises Rego's work. In *Girl with Gladioli* the child, half dressed, confronts her mother with a watchful, knowing gaze, flowers flickering red as flames in the foreground, while behind a hooded figure wrestles mysteriously with a black saint. In *Lying* the girl, with the same insolent glance, clasps her hands as if in prayer against a white tablecloth, but through the immaculate lace of her flounced dress naked flesh gleams. Rego's works are full of allegory and allusion. "I wish I could explain," she says, "but

the painting just works like a jigsaw through bits of images." Symbolism adds an enigmatic clarity: the unfolding lip of a spiky seashell; the white chicken strung up like a voodoo sacrifice; the tiny doll, stiff on a dark lap; the figure of the Virgin Mary prostrate under a bed.

These paintings are not narratives. There is no past and no future. Just the mystery and eroticism of the moment, and a feeling that seethes on the edges of desire and disgust.

Paula Rego's work is on show at the Dulwich Picture Gallery (0181-693 5254) until July 26.

Silver and Tea
A Goldsmiths' Company Exhibition
Admission free
29th July to 1st Aug 1998
11.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Saturday
Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London, EC2V 8BN, St Pauls

PURCELL'S STAGE WORKS
Reviewed by Roderick Swinerton
CHARLES BURNLEY considered in 1789 that Purcell had "built his fame with such perishable materials that his worth and works are daily diminishing". True for Purcell's centenary, but not for his tercentenary which could boast a flood of Purcell recordings of just those "perishable materials" Burnley thought so vulnerable. The high quality of much of the most forgotten of Purcell's theatrical output can be judged on a trail-blazing set of six CDs on Decca's L'Oiseau-Lyre under the direction of Christopher Hogwood. Dating from the 1970s this set, though innovative, nowadays can seem a bit rough and ready, and a much more stylish feeling for the instrumental music can be had on a Sony Classical CD of four of Purcell's the-

BUILDING A LIBRARY
A guide to the best available recordings, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3
atre suites played by Tafelmusik under Jeanne Lamont: an excellent starter disc for this repertoire. Revivals of Purcell's theatre music have always begun in recent years with *Dido and Aeneas*. During the 1950s Bernard Miles revived it with Kirsten Flagstad as Dido performing twice nightly for a pint of stout per self-immolation. Recorded in 1952 on EMI, Flagstad set the tone for a generation of Didos including Janet Baker's great 1962 performance on Decca. Since then, Didos have wavered between solemn gravity and wan vulnerability. The most satisfying current performance is by Veronique Gens under William Christie with Les Arts Florissants on Erato. Christie is a strong contender for the best performer of Purcell's large-scale semi-operas from the 1690s - *King Arthur*, *Dioclesian* and *Indian Queen* - and his *Fairy Queen* on Harmonia Mundi is the most satisfying in the catalogue. Overall, ● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forbes, IV36 0BR or phone 0245 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk ● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Wagner's *Die Walküre*

however, he is just pipped at the post by John Eliot Gardiner on Erato (at mid-price) who consistently has the finest soloists, the best-dressed chorus and orchestra, and above all an unflinching sense of drama, as the moving ending of his Erato recording of *Indian Queen* demonstrates. The prime test of recordings of Purcell's theatre music is how much they capture his astonishing ability to characterise moods and dramatic events. Ironically, then, my final recommendation as a starter disc is of "bleeding chunks" of vocal music, but they are so well sung and so well characterised that it is a short step to imagining their context. The CD, *O Solitude*, performed by Nancy Argenta on Virgin Classics (VC 7 59324-2, £16.49), is living proof that Burnley was wrong and that Purcell's "perishable materials" have proved long-lived.

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London Coliseum WC2
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24 hours
June 25 | 29
July 2 at 7.30pm
June 27 | July 4 at 6.30pm
Tickets from £5

Is this the final Whistle?

The voyage of Lloyd Webber's new musical to its London premiere next week has been far from smooth, as Richard Morrison reports

In the cyber-libraries of the 23rd century, where earnest scholars will pore over the manuscripts of Andrew Lloyd Webber in an eternal quest for the sources of the great man's inspiration...



Gale Edwards, director of Whistle: "Uniquely in Andrew's work, this is a story of real, suffering folk"

Andrew's canon of work, this is a story about the dreams of real, suffering folk - poor white trash, if you like...

Gosh. All very profound for a song-and-dance show. And there's more. Edwards believes Whistle to be a classic example of our old literary friend, the rite-of-passage story...

"Yes, he is. At least in the modern Christian sense that something of God is in us all. There are epic ideas in Whistle. Here is this stranger who arrives in a community, changes everybody and everything, and then passes on, as mysteriously as he came...

Epic themes might be, but the scale of Edwards's staging will be modest by the standards of West End musicals. There will be no helicopters or crashing chandeliers.

Mind you, all things are relative. "It's difficult to deliver musical theatre of the kind that Andrew writes with only a chair and a table..."

fans of the 1961 film, is why a quintessentially English composer like Lloyd Webber has taken a rock'n'roll side of his own creativity...

"First, I think Andrew wanted to explore the Cajun sounds of the American South, and also the raw, rock'n'roll side of his own creativity...

religion had an almost fanatical hold on the community; a landscape in which it is credible that a little girl will believe that a stranger is Jesus...

Which brings us up to date. They do say that great musicals are not so much written as re-written. If that's true, the Whistle that finally opens at the Aldwych next week should be a corker.

Its staging has now been entrusted to a feisty Australian, Gale Edwards, who caught Lloyd Webber's eye when she directed a notable Aussie production of his Aspects of Love...

A second chance to go with the flow

own Coursing, the short piece with which the London Sinfonia-nietta's programme opened. Coursing was inspired by the sight of the rapids at Niagara Falls and its irresistible flow was realised to exhilarating effect by the ensemble under Knussen's baton.

As an orchestration of quasi-children's pieces for piano, Wind Messengers is unpretentious and enjoyable, but the real meat of the programme was to come after the interval in the shape of Berg's Chamber Concerto.

CONCERT London Sinf/ Knussen Snape Maltings

on one side of the stage, resulting in an over-aggressive sound source lacking both clarity and depth of focus. In the second place, Peter Serkin's dynamic demonstration of piano playing on the other side of the stage, was a mismatched solo violin. Though faintly undermined by this imbalance, the performance had undeniable vitality and an unwavering directional impulse.

BARRY MILLINGTON

RECOMMENDED TODAY

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargie

- LONDON CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL: The annual festival... THE OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD: New David Mamet play... RESONANCES OF PASSION: Double-bill of two plays...



Nikolai Korniev conducts twilight Schumann in St Paul's

NEW LONDON THEATRE

- THE BASSET TABLE: Subtitled The Fun, the Fish and the Gambling... A DANGEROUS WOMAN: Fennella Fielding plays a recently widowed duchess... DISCO PIGS: Baby taking play...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

- NEW RELEASES CITY OF ANGELS (12): Restless angel... THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15): Teenage life and loves... CURRENT THE APOSTLE (12): Engraving portrait of a flawed Protestant preacher...

OPERA & BALLET THE ROYAL BALLET... THEATRES ADELPHI... CHICAGO THE MUSICAL... THEATRES

Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss in a new version by Tony Britton. The Drill Hall Theatre

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL... CAMBRIDGE... THE UNEXPECTED MAN... THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND... THE WOMAN IN BLACK... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... THE JOHANNA COMETH... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA... THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA...

NATIONAL THEATRE... PHENIX BOCC... MAJOR BARBARA... THE MANTHORPE... PRINCE EDWARD... THE MERCHANT OF VENICE... THE MERCHANT OF VENICE... THE MERCHANT OF VENICE...

Amended Index of Account Rates

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NATIONAL THEATRE... PHENIX BOCC... MAJOR BARBARA... THE MANTHORPE... PRINCE EDWARD... THE MERCHANT OF VENICE... THE MERCHANT OF VENICE... THE MERCHANT OF VENICE...

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE Her Royal Highness, Patron, June 22: The Duke of Edinburgh, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, this afternoon visited Royal Air Force Wittering, Cambridgeshire.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the new factory of David S. Smith Corrugated, at Fordham, Cambridgeshire, at 10.00, as visitor.

The Queen has appointed Mr. Simon Lewis to be Communications Secretary at Buckingham Palace from September 1.

Maureen Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Maureen Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava will take place in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Wednesday, July 15.

Music in Hospitals The Bishop of London gave the address at a service of thanksgiving and re-dedication held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly, to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Council for Music in Hospitals.

Retirement Judge Lewis-Bowen has retired from the Wales and Chester Circuit Bench.



The Prince of Wales being greeted warmly by a Camborne housewife, Kathryn Clifford, yesterday. The Prince was visiting the Cornish town to see a centre which supports young children from single-parent families

Memorial service

Sir John Nabarro A celebration for the life and work of Sir John Nabarro, physician, was held yesterday in the library of the Royal College of Physicians in London.

Luncheon

Monday Luncheon Club The American Ambassador will be the principal guest at a luncheon of the Monday Luncheon Club held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel.

Dinner

Defence and Security Forum Lord Deedes was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Defence and Security Forum held last night at the Carlton Club.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League Dr Peter Ellis of the Oxford Research Group was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's.

Students find Roman parade ground

A ROMAN military parade ground, one of only a handful known from the entire Empire, has been identified by Oxford students excavating near Bicester, about 11 miles from the city.

Birthdays today

Mr S.M. Andrews, former Head Master, Clifton College, 66; Mr Kim Begley, actor, 46; Professor N.C. Bowery, pharmacologist, 54; the Very Rev Professor Henry Chadwick, KBE FBA, former Master, Peterhouse, Cambridge, 78; Mr Nicholas Cleobury, conductor, 48; Mr A.M. Davies, chairman, Simon Engineering, 64; Professor Sir John Elton, FBA, historian, 68; Miss Carolyn Ellis, explorer, 36; the Right Rev Lord Habgood, 71; Sir Alan Haselhurst, MF, 61; Mr Julian Hipwood, polo player, 52; Lord Irvine of Lairg, 58; Miss Miriam Karlin, actress, 73; Admiral Sir Horace Lurg, 87; Mr Robert Litherland, former MP, 68; Lord Justice Millett, 66; Lord Newall, 68; Mrs Anne Davies, director, Justice, 51; Miss Karen Potter, fashion designer, 39; Mr John Prebble, writer, 83; Professor Sir Martin Rees, FRS, astronomer, 56; Professor Isaac Schapera, FBA, anthropologist, 92; Professor Sir Nicholas Shackleton, FRS, past president of the Royal Society of Swaffham Prior, 72; the Right Rev K.N. Sutton, Bishop of Lichfield, 64; Mr Anthony Thwaite, poet, 68; Colonel J.B. Timmins, Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, 66; Miss Irene Worth, actress, 82.

Cutlers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the company for the year ending 30th June 1998: Master, Mr R.M.L. Evans; Junior Warden, Mr R.M.L. Evans; Senior Warden, Mr R.M.L. Evans.

Immigration Judges

Mr Brian Watkins has been re-elected President of the Association of Immigration Judges. Mr Michael Rapinet has been elected deputy president and Mr John Boyd, QC, vice president.

University news

Glasgow Sir John Shaw, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Scotland, will receive an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws on July 15.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Pell, Bishop of Oxford 1675-86, Longworth, Berkshire, 1675; the Duke of Windsor, sometime King Edward VIII, reigned January 20, 1936 to December 11, 1936, White Lodge, Richmond Park, 1894; Jean Anouilh, dramatist, Bordeaux, 1910.

Golden Anniversaries

THOMPSON-SOWAN - On 26th June 1948 at Osborne Park, Edinburgh, Scotland. Belfast, Frank to Elizabeth. Now living in Cromleigh, Surrey.

PERSONAL COLUMN

PERSONAL COLUMN containing various notices such as Births, Deaths, and Services. Includes names like KHAM, LORINCOTT, ANIR, BLANCHARD, BAUMER-GRUND, BOYER, RICHMOND, SAFFIAN, SCLAR, BOYER, WRIGHTHEAD, CASSELL, VERHAUGEN, CHAMBERS, CLARK, DANSON, FREEMAN, KHAM, LORINCOTT, ANIR, BLANCHARD, BAUMER-GRUND, BOYER, RICHMOND, SAFFIAN, SCLAR, BOYER, WRIGHTHEAD, CASSELL, VERHAUGEN, CHAMBERS, CLARK, DANSON, FREEMAN.

Wanted and Services section with various notices including 'WANTED' and 'SERVICES'.

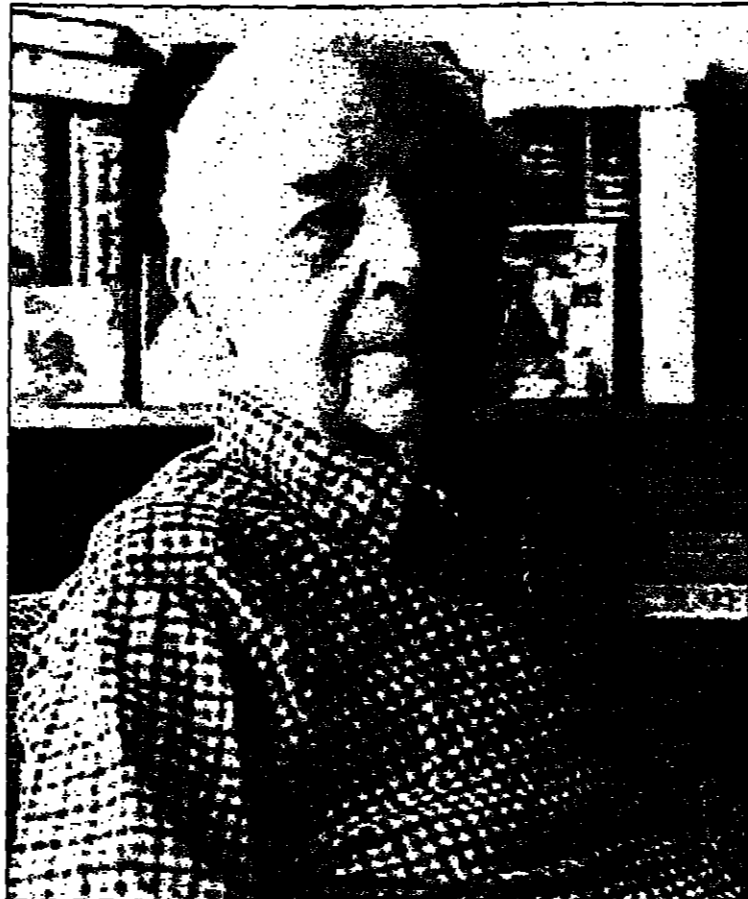
OBITUARIES

ALFRED KAZIN

Alfred Kazin, American author and critic, died in New York on June 5 on his 83rd birthday. He was born on June 5, 1915.

One of the last of a generation of cultivated American periodical journalists of whom Edmund Wilson was perhaps the exemplar supreme, Alfred Kazin established an immediate reputation as a New York intellectual with his first book, On Native Grounds (1942), a survey of American prose literature from William Dean Howells to William Faulkner. It transformed his life. As he was later to put it: "One dreamlike week in 1942 I published my first book... became an editor of the New Republic and with my wife Natasha moved into a little apartment on 24th Street and Lexington... I had never lived in Manhattan before."

novel... and "One day in 1899, 18-year-old Caroline Meeber from Columbia City, Wisconsin... boarded a train for Chicago that was to take her (and the newspaper reporter from Terre Haute who imagined her for his first novel) into world literature." For Kazin the creative and the critical were not two distinct forms of literary activity. "Criticism, for me, was not a theory. It was a branch of literature, a way of writing like any other, of characterisation, analysis and almost physical empathy. One could be a writer without writing a novel."



Alfred Kazin, seen in his New York home last year, established his reputation in the 1940s and remained an old-fashioned essayist

five years, was On Native Grounds. And it was largely on native ground that he remained. Unlike Wilson, who was as much at home discussing European symbolism as Theodore Dreiser, Kazin remained the chronicler of literary developments in America. As such, however, he was recognised as possessing a knowledge of home-grown literature which was without peer among his contemporaries, and he returned to the

him to London to study a variety of aspects of British social life, among them the Labour movement and education in the British Army. This experience opened his eyes to conditions of life outside America and he was to spend later spells abroad as visiting professor at Cambridge and Cologne universities and as writer-in-residence at the American Academy in Rome.

SIR JOHN ELLIS

Sir John Ellis, MBE, physician and teacher, died on June 16 aged 82. He was born on June 15, 1916.

DURING his influential career in medical education, John Ellis remained a truly general physician, concerned as much with the mind as with the body, and as much with care as with diagnosis. Although a superb bedside teacher, he recognised that bedside apprenticeship was not enough. Students needed tutors to assist their "learning and academic development" too. He was appalled to see each new medical student's burning enthusiasm for scientific inquiry being quenched by the absurd fact-cramping of the conventional course, which filled them with the ephemeral details of today when the real need was to equip them to evaluate the information of tomorrow. The best way to teach them to think scientifically and reason critically, he argued, was through the study of a selected scientific subject in depth.

and eventually his health, making necessary prolonged treatment for tuberculosis. But although he made a full recovery, he was not made dean. To be rejected by his own medical school was a bitter disappointment, especially as he was now in demand everywhere else. Whenever a new medical school was planned, or older institutions were in trouble, they sent for Ellis. In the next decade he travelled all over the world, examining and lecturing. He was appointed to the American Board of Medical Examiners and was a consultant to the World Health Organisation. In 1963 the Ministry of Health invited him to advise on postgraduate education. He accepted because he was "angry at the way young doctors in Britain were so cruelly exploited". A draft report of his for the Christchurch conference led to the institution of postgraduate deans, clinical tutors, postgraduate centres and study leave, all of which are taken for granted today. He was also a member of the Todd Commission which in 1968 recommended that 30 small university medical institutions around London should merge into six units each big enough to be viable. The implied criticism aroused intense hostility. Eventually made Dean of the London Hospital in 1968, Ellis increased the annual student intake from 80 to 120. He set up professional units in almost every speciality in medicine and surgery, wherever possible jointly with

NORMAN JORDAN-MOSS

Norman ("Nick") Jordan-Moss, CB, CMG, former Deputy Secretary at the Treasury, died on May 27 aged 73. He was born on February 5, 1920.

FEW Treasury officials can ever have travelled as frequently or as far as Nick Jordan-Moss. Fewer still have been on the stage with Jimmy Edwards and earned a living playing the piano in a Paris nightclub. Recruited to the Treasury's overseas section in 1944, Jordan-Moss spent three years in the Middle East, delivering — or withholding — British aid. From his base in the British Embassy in Cairo, he travelled to Iran and Iraq, throughout the Levant, the Gulf and the Horn of Africa. He helped to introduce a

paper currency in Ethiopia and broke the news to Ibn Saud that Britain could not afford another subvention (Ibn Saud was "most understanding" and gave him a lift through Jeddah in his Rolls-Royce). Dispatched next to Argentina, Jordan-Moss spent six months negotiating over beef, forging a friendly relationship with President and Eva Peron. In Belgrade he supervised British aid to Yugoslavia, which entailed frequent meetings with Tito, and he spent his last night there celebrating with the secret police colonel who had been tailing him. He was in Washington from 1956 to 1960 and in Paris from 1960 to 1966. Understandably, it was with some regret that he then settled down in Whitehall. He might perhaps have

climbed higher in the Civil Service had he spent more time at a desk there and less overseas. But he always took particular pride in his CMG, an honour more usually reserved for Foreign Office diplomats. Norman Jordan-Moss was born in Openshaw, Manchester, where his father was a sanitary engineer and his mother a professional pianist. His contemporaries at Manchester Grammar School christened him "Nick" because neither he nor they much cared for "Norman". His father had been good at French but was forced to leave school at 15, so wanting to do better for his son, he packed him off to France to learn the language before he went up to St John's College, Cambridge, to read classics. The young



Jordan-Moss soon tired of living on a farm in Brittany and moved to Paris, assuring his father that he could keep himself. Although he could not read music, he could play any tune on the piano and improvise. Booking in at the YMCA, he found himself work in nightclubs as a stand-in pianist.

These included the Crazy Horse and Stephane Grappelli's Hot Club de France — where he played with Grappelli himself and Django Reinhardt. He took over from the resident pianist at inn and played until the last guest left. Now fluent in French, Jordan-Moss claimed his place at Cambridge, where he took a first in Part I of the Classical Tripos, although the war prevented him from taking Part II. He played table tennis for the university and soccer, on the right wing, for its second XI. He also performed in the Footlights with Jimmy Edwards. Rejected for active service because of eczema, he was drafted to the Ministry of Economic Warfare, where he took part in the decoy operation before D-Day. He was detailed to brief a group of radio operators who were dropped into occupied Europe in 1944. These unfortunates were then captured and interrogated by the Gestapo. But the material with which he had briefed them had been false — calculated to mislead the Germans into expecting an allied invasion through the Pas de Calais.

Shortly after D-Day, however, Jordan-Moss was himself terribly injured by a flying bomb which destroyed his ministry headquarters in Berkeley Square. His fourth-floor office in Lansdowne House disappeared in a sheet of flame. The blast blinded one of his colleagues and left Jordan-Moss with a shard of glass embedded in his forehead and another buried in his throat. He was taken to St George's Hospital, only to have another bomb land on his ward. He was transferred to St Albans and from there to East Grinstead, where the pioneering plastic surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe performed a brilliant repair job on his shattered face. He joined the Treasury later that year and steadily climbed the rungs. As a deputy under-secretary, he moved in 1971 to spend five years in the Department of Health and Social Security. In 1976, however, he returned to the Treasury as a deputy secretary to take charge of overseas finance until 1980, when he retired. In retirement he worked for a number of financial companies including Hambros Bank. In 1991 he published Don't Kill the Cuckoo, a book of short stories based on his experiences. In his younger days he had written plots for Z-Cars on television and contributed to Reveille under the pen-name of Lawrence Jackson. Despite his wartime injuries, he performed in amateur dramatics throughout his life. Sybil Thormdike, who once saw his act, even commented on his striking good looks, testifying to McIndoe's skill.



Ellis once visited every medical school in Britain, Scandinavia and the United States

With the light troops I had, we pursued, through woods and mountains, twenty times our number, flying in all directions — consequently we could not make prisoners. My horse got two balls in him, and I had, as you may suppose, a thousand hairbreadth escapes, but the Hand that governs the Universe protected me in the hour of danger. We followed them till night, the soldiers making immense plunder, some of them got thousands of pounds. My men came with some carriages laden with gold, but, knowing the bad effects of plunder, I did all to prevent it. Such a day never was seen! It was a complete hunt. We followed them to Pamphosa where they left 4,000 men to defend it — it is a strong place. The King and his fugitive Army took the Princess and are probably gone to France. We are now in pursuit of ten thousand men towards Saragossa who are trying to get off — but it is generally thought they cannot. It is hard work incessantly marching and with scarcely any provisions. Look at the map and see the country we have passed over without magazines. Adieu! God bless you and believe me most affectionately yours,

THE BATTLE OF VITORIA An unpublished letter of Sir James Wilson GALAPENZO, JUNE 29, 1813 PROVINCE OF NAVARRRE This hitherto unpublished letter, appearing 100 years after the battle, was written by his wife by Major-General Sir James Wilson KCB. He served throughout the Peninsular War, took part in 17 actions and was three times wounded. Happily, this time we escaped without much slaughter, though the Regt. was under fire the whole day. I commanded a Light Brigade which was in the thickest of the action from morning till after dark — thanks to Divine Providence, untouched. Such a day as the annals of history do not produce! We drove them from one of the strongest positions that could be taken up in front of Vittoria, occupied by seventy thousand men. Their right, left and centre were attacked and carried by the Enemy under a heavy cannonade. The Enemy abandoned everything with the loss of one hundred and fifty two pieces of cannon: all their baggage carriages, and military chests — one million of money has been taken. It was like a dream! The King (meaning Joseph Buonaparte) lost everything he possessed, both public and private, and with difficulty escaped from the field of battle on his horse. To behold the scene near the gates of Vittoria presented something new in War. The roads were choked up with cannon, carriages, phaetons, carriages, carts of doublers — the Enemy flying in all directions, cavalry bayoneted, infantry shooting, plundering and bayoneting the fugitives. As they were turned never did an enemy behave so cowardly.

PERSONAL COLUMN

A collection of various advertisements including: TICKETS FOR SALE, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY (listing cities like Sydney, Melbourne, Perth), ANNOUNCEMENTS, LEGAL PUBLIC COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES, FLIGHTWISE, FLIGHTSEEKERS, AIRLINK, COURT & SOCIAL, FOREWEDDING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES, THE BATTLE OF VITORIA, ON THIS DAY (June 23, 1913), and various travel and service agencies like Jetworld, FARESAVERS, and UK HOLIDAYS.

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Partnership aiming to give tonic to the capital

By Brian Collett

A CONSORTIUM of companies and public bodies has been formed to revitalise Central London and stimulate its business.

The Central London Partnership, made up of organisations such as Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, local authorities and the Focus Central London Training and Enterprise Council, intends to look at factors affecting business in the heart of the capital, including transport, congestion and environmental issues.

The area is seen as a special case because it draws in millions of workers, shoppers and tourists every day.

The partnership is discussing how to retain and expand businesses with London First Centre, which seeks investment in the capital.

It is also running a pilot scheme encouraging restaurants and retailers to co-ordinate deliveries. "Many have deliveries from a supplier four times a day," said Pat Brown, the partnership's chief executive.

If the deliveries were cut to one daily, three out of four vehicle journeys could be eliminated. The partnership believes that if the pilot is successful and extended throughout Central London, delivery trips could be cut by up to 75 per cent. More use of river transport is also being urged to keep roads clear.

The partnership is asking local authorities and the public to keep the capital clean and graffiti-free.

The most ambitious campaign is for a conference centre accommodating 10,000 delegates. Inquiries: 0171-665 1550.

Livewire award for beautiful enterprise based on seaweed

Rodney Hobson on the rapid rise of the winner in Shell's big contest

Fraser Hay lacks nothing in ambition. He aims to have three subsidiaries, all employing more than 100 people and all market leaders in their own field. His product is seaweed.

Mr Hay started his business by walking into a bank with £10 and opening an account. Within 18 months he has built his business up to the point at which he can employ two casual workers and five part-time staff. A call centre in Nottingham that he uses has already handled 9,000 inquiries.

The success of his company, Health Scope Direct, which makes gels from seaweed, has won him the Shell Livewire Young Business Person of the Year Award and a £10,000 prize. Mr Hay, from Banff, Aberdeenshire, beat the widest range of companies to have graced the Livewire finals so far.

Other promising new businesses set up in the past two years and making it into the finals included a fish and chip shop, a foster care agency, an undertaker and a worm breeder. Nick Horniman, who runs the Pet's Barn veterinary surgery in Gloucestershire, and Patrick O'Neil, of Co Down, who designs and builds cranes, were highly commended.

Shell Livewire is a national scheme helping people aged 16 to 30 to realise their business ambitions by giving them free advice on



Fraser Hay, with his Shell Livewire award and products from 18-month-old Health Scope Direct

setting up and expanding their own businesses. In the past 16 years it has supported more than 120,000 young people.

Mr Hay had been employed by a German cosmetics company, Art Deco, before branching out on his own in December 1996. He says:

"At the time, it was using animal ingredients and my brief was to look for a natural alternative."

That research was to stand him in good stead when he set up on his own. Not only did he learn about natural products such as seaweed, but he also gained experience in

computer systems that allows him to handle his accounts.

Although he knew of two other companies processing seaweed on the West Coast of Scotland, he went to France for his product. He says: "It is no part of my policy to go into manufacturing. I am more interest-

ed in marketing. My gels are manufactured under contract in France. As part of my research I discovered that it has the cleanest water in the European Community. The Brittany coastline has more than 800 species of seaweed."

His flagship product, as he describes it, is TLG, a tired-legs gel aimed at the over-50s, but Mr Hay says: "I wanted to reach the younger market and the feedback I got was that they wanted a toning gel. My policy was to find the market, and then supply the product. There is no point in producing something that no one wants. I found out what people wanted and how much they were prepared to pay."

What people wanted was BLT — a toning gel for bottoms, legs and thighs. The price they were prepared to pay, Mr Hay reckoned, was £12.99 for a 100ml tube. He says that rival products cost from £30 to £65.

He now has 8,000 customers in nine countries and says that the mail order side is going particularly well. His aim was to achieve turnover of £1 million in the first two years of trading and he is on target to top £300,000 this year.

The three strands of his strategy are mail order, retail/wholesale, and party plans/direct marketing. To build up the retail side, Mr Hay is negotiating with Art Deco to buy its beauty salons in this country. He is talking to venture capitalists to raise cash and also has the backing of The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust.

He says: "I want to break into the beauty market and if you do not have a multimillion budget, the quickest way is through an acquisition."

Study points to pitfalls of working from home

By Brian Collett

THE isolation that self-employment can bring is highlighted in a report to be released this summer.

The problems are often not appreciated because a "rosy and glamorous picture" of self-employment is painted, said Jill Dutton, principal researcher for the report, published by Durham University Business School's Foresight Research Centre.

Many self-employed people miss office camaraderie, but the social effects are the least serious. Absence of personal contact with colleagues and customers removes communication and other business skills. "People don't know how to value their products and services because they have nobody to bounce ideas off," said Ms Dutton.

Some, therefore, fail to network, set unrealistic prices and do not conduct proper marketing. The individual then fails to develop a business image.

Many who work from home have to grapple with family attitudes. "Work is not taken seriously by the family," said Ms Dutton. "They resent the time and space being occupied. Similarly, an academic I met said his family thought of him as playing when he worked at his computer screen at home."

People saw the benefits of self-employment as freedom, flexibility, being their own boss, having time, working at home and a better income. The established self-employed businessman or woman probably enjoys these advantages, said Ms Dutton, but the researchers found that some respondents saw time and flexibility as drawbacks when they had midnight calls and few reaped significant financial rewards.

Ms Dutton said: "Some regard self-employment as better than unemployment, and a minority see it as a means of earning more."

"It is a valid way of making a living, but it is a lot more difficult than most people think. It is more to do with being disciplined than being a flashy entrepreneur."

Len Tordel, chairman of the Home Business Alliance, agreed that many self-employed people felt isolated. However, they could be helped psychologically by contact with others in business organisations and practically by fellow members' advice.

BRIEFINGS

Your Business, to help small business owners who have been trading for more than a year to run their firms more efficiently. Copies are free from bank branches.

Griffin Credit Services, the invoice finance arm of Midland Bank, is holding a series of breakfast seminars on how to increase sales. The next one is in Liverpool on Thursday, followed

by London, Nottingham, Oxford, Lincoln, Birmingham, Chelmsford, Hull, Teesside and Swansea. For a free place, call 0800 343435.

The DTI's Information Society Initiative has produced a free guide to innovations in information and communication technologies. Doing Business In the Information Society is available by calling 0345 152000.

Horwath Clark Whitehill, the accountant, is holding a free seminar on succession planning and exiting from a business at its London offices tomorrow. Contact Susan Kyle on 0171-353 1577.

The euro is "just another currency" according to small and medium-sized enterprises that took part in a Lloyds TSB survey. They said it was unlikely to

influence the way business was conducted and was more a back-office, than a front-office, concern. Most businesses showed confusion over the meanings of, and differences between, the euro and EMU.

Coopers & Lybrand has updated its guide to the European Union's VAT rebate scheme. The deadline for claims for expenses on overseas trips taken in 1997 is June 30. Copies of the guide cost £15 from Nicola Miller in the VAT division of Coopers at 1 Embankment Place, London WC2N 6NN.



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NEWS

Football hooligans face travel ban

Football hooligans could face an automatic five-year ban on travelling to matches abroad as part of a government attempt to clamp down on England's unruly followers.

Germany shamed by gendarme attack

"We Are Ashamed!" ran the banner headline in Bild, the paper of choice for most of the German football fans mulling in France.

Learning curve

Household names, such as Marks & Spencer, are to help the Government to run failing schools under its flagship education programme.

Reprieve for pits

The Government has agreed to a package to help to keep Britain's coal mines going for the next five years.

Murder clue

A Canadian fugitive living in Britain was accused of murder after a body was trawled up from the bottom of the Channel.

Passengers first

Rail regulators, surprised by Stagecoach's £138 million bid for a large stake in Virgin Rail, will block it unless passenger improvements are included in the deal.

Soldiers rescued

Two British soldiers, trapped for four days 19,000ft up Mt McKinley in Alaska in a blizzard with no food or radio, have been rescued.

'Merciless' killer

A student dropout, who walked his victim home from the pub, was jailed for life for her 'merciless killing'. She had spurned his sexual advances.

Blair promises a future for Dome

Tony Blair returned yesterday to the derelict site where now the Millennium Dome stands proud. He said that the structure, initially planned to be as temporary as the Eiffel Tower, was too good to be torn down.

Doctors accused

A woman is accusing doctors of criminal negligence after her "relatively healthy" mother died six days after going into hospital.

Cathedral dispute

An £8 million millennium project plan at Southwark Cathedral has upset worshippers since it will include the demolition of part of a £15 million Chapter House completed ten years ago.

Chinese gang-raped

Chinese women were specifically targeted during the rioting in Jakarta last month where they were systematically gang-raped.

Bonn rejects EC ban

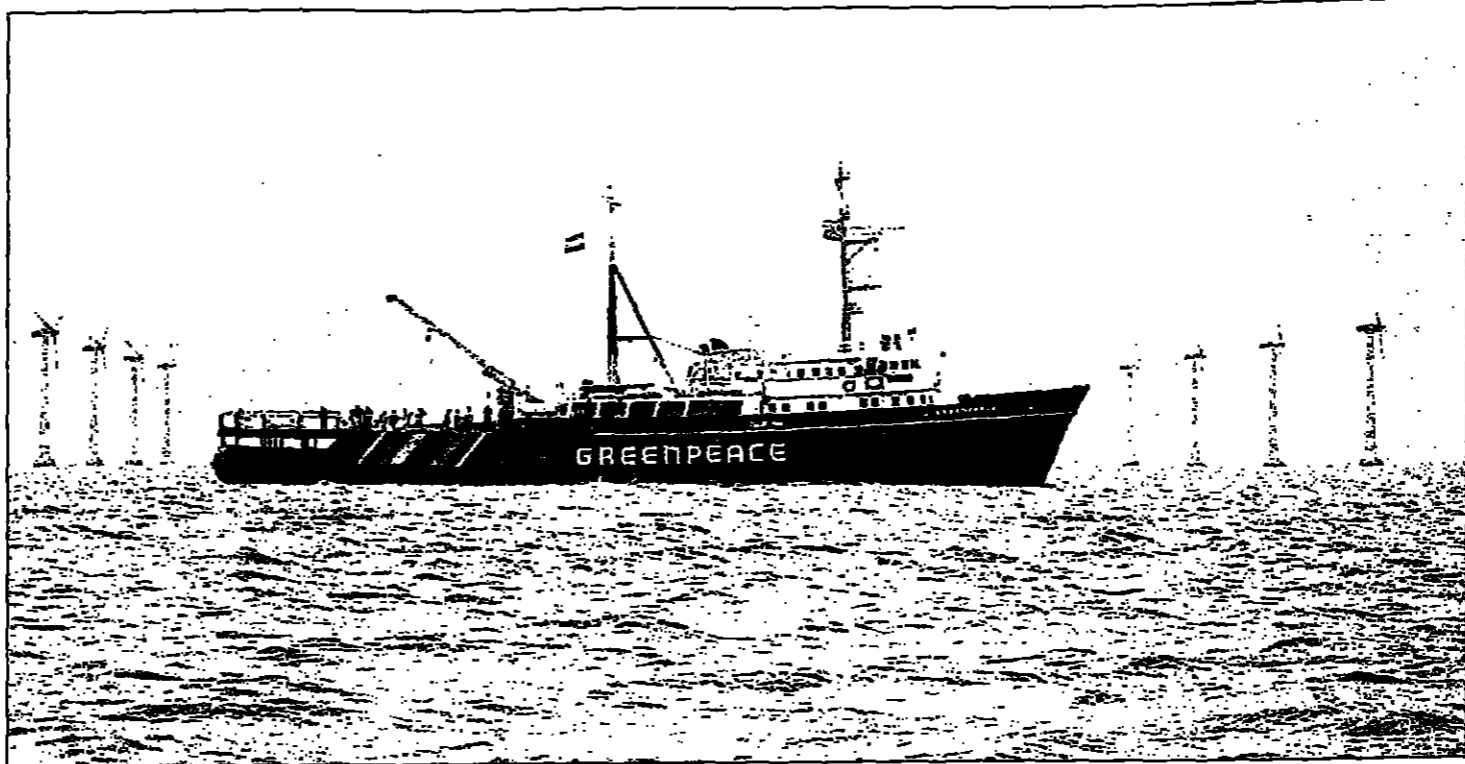
Germany, arguing that health policy is the responsibility of member states, is to challenge the EU ban on tobacco advertising, approved yesterday.

Iranians celebrate

Iranians ignored the strictures of Islamic rule and spent the night partying in the streets after the country's victory over America in the World Cup.

'Senseless' request

Russia warned the West that a pullout of Serb forces in Kosovo was senseless while ethnic Albanian guerrillas continued their attacks.



MV Greenpeace visits a windfarm off the Danish coast. The environmental group wants Europe to switch to this clean energy

BUSINESS

Battling recession: Hong Kong admitted that its economy is heading for recession and unveiled a HK\$32 billion (£2.5 billion) package aimed at stabilising a plunging property market and shoring up its banks.

Branson deal: Shares of Stagecoach fell after the train and bus operator announced it was paying £158 million for 49 per cent of Virgin Rail.

PolyGram move: Alain Levy, president and chief executive of PolyGram, has quit the company after its takeover by Seagram.

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 35.7 to 5712.4. The pound fell 22 cents to \$1.6727 and rose 1.46 pence to DM3.0013.

SPORT

World Cup: Colombia defeated Tunisia 1-0 in group G with an 83rd minute goal by Leider Preciado.

Tennis: Tim Henman overcame his first hurdle at Wimbledon by beating Jiri Novak in a nerve-racking five-set game.

Cricket: There was no honour, and precious little grace, in the way that England rushed to embrace defeat in the second Cornhill Test at Lord's.

Golf: David Musgrove, caddy for the winner, and Lee Westwood, whose score in the last two rounds was bettered by nobody, had much to be pleased with at the 98th US Open.

ARTS

Frozen idyll: Richard Cork admires the unsettling ambiguities and tensions in Peter Doig's snowladen landscapes, now on show at the Whitechapel Gallery.

Father figure: Artist Paula Rego has returned to her Portuguese roots for her latest series of paintings, based on a 19th-century novel about a priest.

Whistle blower: The new Lloyd Webber musical, Whistle Down the Wind, has had a rocky road to the West End.

Full flow: Water trickles and courses through Free and Easy Wanderer, a new work by the American composer Peter Lieberson which was premiered at Aldeburgh.

FEATURES

Happy tappers: Welcome to Britain's first workplace "granny creche".

Love hurts: John Hurt's turmoil is over; he is in love.

Trial by television: Louise Woodward endured trial by jury and was found guilty. Now, she has provided us, the public, with a chance to judge for ourselves.

Seaweed is best: Rodney Hobson on the rise of the winner of the Shell LiveWire Young Business Person of the Year Award.

Child cruelty: Judges at the European Court were asked to decide for the first time whether "reasonable chastisement" of children at home should be permitted.

Bevan's baby: A 16-page pullout, celebrating 50 years of the NHS.

In the warmth of this summer, as his 50th birthday nears this fall, it seems that the Prince [of Wales] and his country are starting to graft. After such a long period of growing apart, it is a startling sight.



TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

ARTS Two new Parthenon galleries at the British Museum get the high-tech treatment

HOMES For sale: a late Georgian house with one of the most dramatic views in Ireland

TV AND RADIO

Preview: Derek Jacobi investigates the theft of relics, an abduction and a murder in Cadfael (ITV, 8.30pm) Review: Joe Joseph on the high cost of eco-tourism. Pages 34, 35

OPINION

Clinton to China

To enjoy Beijing to liberalisation at home and responsibility abroad is in everyone's interest. It is depressing that Mr Clinton sets out with so heavy a domestic handicap.

Blunkett's report

Any innovation that helps to break the stranglehold of the educational establishment over schools should be given the best chance to succeed.

London river god

As the last wild space in Central London, the Thames could become once more a place of entertainment and education.

DAVID BLUNKETT

Education Action Zones will help to prepare us for tomorrow's education system, one which will need to meet the needs of a global economy, with wider use of information technology.

ELAINE FEINSTEIN

In sunshine, Prague is resplendently baroque, a city of Mozart and birdsong. It is also a city of ghosts, Kafka's dreams and the reality of betrayal.

MICHAEL GOVE

Tony Blair and Jack Straw yesterday repealed an Orwellian exercise which sought to police private behaviour. But this Government has an approach to freedom which is selective, even arbitrary.

PETER RIDDELL

The Tory defence of a continued hereditary element in the Lords, well over half its current composition, is a nonsense.

Alfred Kazin, American author and critic; Sir John Ellis, physician; Norman Jordan-Jones, Treasury official.

Woodward trial 'unfair': Church on homosexuality; British Library; gifted children; Prince's studies; Sir David English; football hooligans; rubbish 'tax'

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,825

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 and some filled-in letters.

- ACROSS 1 Boy eats small amount with a strong, distinctive taste (8). 5 Charm evident when Mum meets Jack (6). 9 Deliveries not up to date, having done this? (8). 10 The German devours a pub meal (6). 12 It may amount to a repetition involving two identical letters (12). 15 Australian individual's a gas (5). 16 Healing continuously those people admitted (2,3,4). 18 Show result of injury in fast vehicle (6,3). 19 Vegetable garden mostly associated with Devon area (5). 20 Pretty morsel put out for wild bird (6,6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20824 showing the completed crossword grid with words like SCHNAPPS, APLOMB, etc.

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with columns for UK Weather, Inside 1925, and Motorway closures.

Weather by Fax

Table listing weather forecasts for various cities like London, Manchester, etc.

World City Weather

Table listing weather for 153 destinations worldwide.

Motoring

Table listing motoring information by country.

AA Car reports by fax

Text providing AA car reports and contact information.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations.

New moon tomorrow

Text providing information about the new moon.

FORECAST

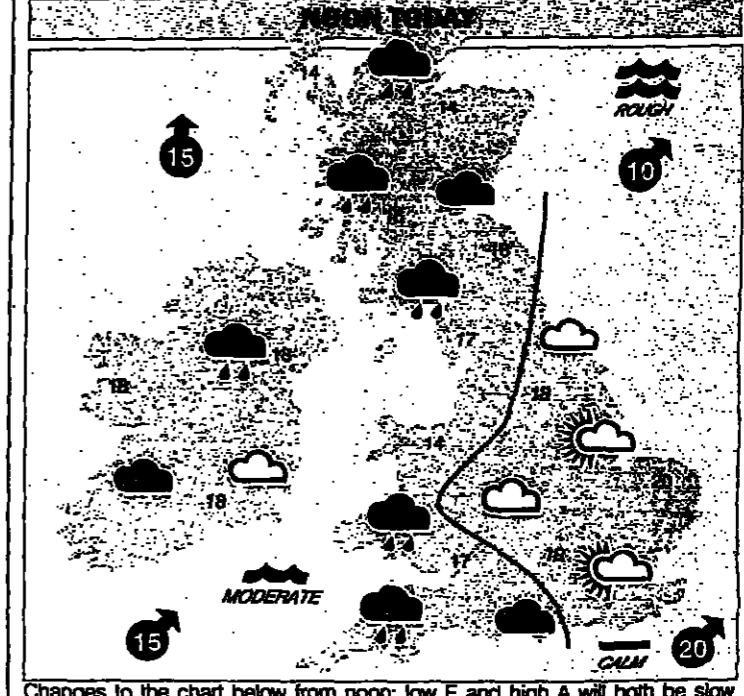
General: breezy and cloudy, England drizzly with some fog. East brighter later. Scotland wet with east becoming brighter.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

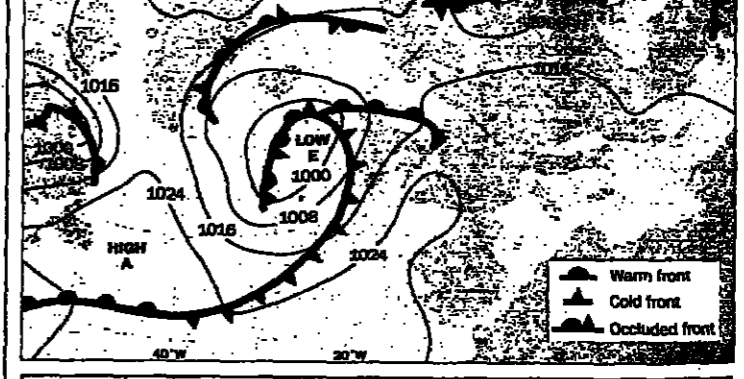
Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday.

ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low E and high A will both be slow moving, with little change in central pressure



HIGH TIDES

Table listing high tide times for various locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Text providing information about the highest and lowest tides.

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Perfect Day advertisement for Scoot music stores, including phone number 0800 192192.

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



ECONOMICS Anatole Kaletsky highlights the help that could hinder PAGE 33



LAW Video game that wasn't so funny PAGES 41-43



SPORT Dissent hastens England cricket's descent from grace PAGES 47-56

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JUNE 23 1998

Hong Kong moves to head off coming recession

By JANET BUSH, MICHAEL MACKAY AND ROBERT WHYMANT HONG KONG yesterday admitted that its economy is heading for recession and unveiled a HK\$32 billion (£2.5 billion) package of measures aimed at stabilising the former colony's plunging property market and shoring up its banks.

the immediate suspension of government land sales until March 31 next year. It is the first time that Hong Kong has undertaken such a measure, reflecting the seriousness that it attaches to the plunge of some 40 per cent in property prices which has been catastrophic for Hong Kong banks

which were heavy lenders to the property sector. The Government owns all land in a small territory of more than six million people and it is hoped that the suspension will help to stabilise property prices. Hong Kong, which was predicting a budget surplus this year of HK\$10.7 billion, is now forecasting a deficit of HK\$2.4 billion.

Other measures included exempting companies from tax on profits as long as these were deposited with Hong Kong banks, providing much-needed liquidity. In addition, Hong Kong announced a sharp rise in government guarantees to exporters, an

increase in government loans for first-time homebuyers and a pay freeze for all civil servants, including Mr Tung himself.

The news from Japan was much less positive. Shares in the Long-Term Credit Bank lost nearly 45 per cent of their value, prompting renewed concern that Japan's financial system could be heading for a new crisis. Waves of sell orders hit LTCB's stock on rumours that the bank is having difficulty finding a merger partner to help it out of a suspected liquidity squeeze. Other bank stocks were sold heavily as well.

Traders continued to watch for concrete action from the Government to tackle a mountain of bad bank loans. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, and Koichi Kato, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), agreed to finalise on July 5 the details of a plan to solve the nation's bad loan mess.

Commentary, page 31

MARKS & SPENCER SUSPENDS PLANNED MOVE INTO AUSTRALIA

By ROBERT COLE CITY CORRESPONDENT

FURTHER evidence of the widespread effect of the Asian economic crisis came yesterday as Marks & Spencer suspended plans to expand into Australia.

Paul Smith, chief executive of the retailer's Asia-Pacific regional subsidiaries, said: "We have concluded that opening Mark & Spencer stores in Australia under the current economic conditions is no longer viable."

The famous St Michael brand owner had agreed to open stores in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane selling clothes, shoes, toiletries and cosmetics in a joint venture operation with a local company called Just Jeans.

Blame for the U-turn was firmly placed on the Asian difficulties. Mr Smith said that it and Just Jeans had "reluctantly come to this decision because of the weakening of the Australian dollar and unstable economic conditions affecting Asian economies."

The shift in exchange rates undermined the project fundamentally because the Australian outlets were to be positioned as offering quality goods at competitive prices.

The expansion was part of a £2.2 billion expenditure programme that is currently being undertaken by M&S. However, the UK retailer had not committed significant funds to Australia. It also said that it would resuscitate the proposal. "The decision represents a review of timing only, not the strategy for expansion."

Commentary, page 31

ITC acts to avert threat from TV stations

By RAYMOND SNOODY AND JASON NISSÉ

THE Independent Television Commission has backed down in the battle over the "unbundling" of large packages of cable and satellite channels by allowing existing contracts to run until 2000.

The move is most likely to help LIVE TV, the station owned by Mirror Group, and Channel One, owned by Associated Newspapers. Kelvin MacKenzie, the outgoing deputy chief executive of Mirror, said LIVE might have to close if the ITC forced through its changes to the way cable and satellite channels are sold.

The ITC originally ruled that viewers should not have to buy large packages of channels, including channels they may not want to pay for. Under its "unbundling" strategy the ITC said it planned to end requirements that many cable channels had to be distributed to at least 80 per cent of subscribers.

When the ITC announced its proposals in April it also indicated it had the power to overturn existing contracts giving near-universal coverage of cable networks.

However, Mirror Group threatened to seek a judicial review of the ITC decision if any attempt was made to interfere retrospectively with contracts, some of which run until 2005.

The ITC has tried to defuse any threat of legal action by saying existing contracts can stay in place until the turn of the century.

The climbdown will be announced by the ITC on Thursday, although the commission will make clear at the same time that it is pushing ahead with the principle of unbundling. It is expected that the channel owners will accept the compromise and withdraw their threats of legal action.

Souter boards Virgin Rail

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

VENTURE capitalists — who put £46 million into Richard Branson's Virgin Rail two years ago — are to make a 200 per cent profit after a £158 million deal struck yesterday with Stagecoach, the transport group led by Brian Souter.

The deal means that the flotation of Virgin Rail, which would have brought Mr Branson before the stock market for the first time in more than a decade, is to be shelved.

Stagecoach is taking a 49 per cent stake in Virgin Rail for £158 million. Of this, £138 million will go to Virgin's venture capital backers — Bankers Trust, Texas Pacific, JP Morgan and Electra.

Stagecoach is buying 99 per cent of the business from the venture capitalists, then selling back 10 per cent to Virgin for a nominal fee to give Mr Branson's company overall control.

The City took fright at the deal, marking down Stagecoach shares 57p to £13.63 as analysts feared that Stagecoach will pick up a great deal of Virgin's risk for little reward.

The tie-up with Virgin means that Porterbrook, the train leasing company owned by Stagecoach, is ruled out of the running for the lucrative contract for tilting trains on Virgin's West Coast and Cross Country lines. Porterbrook had been bidding for the £1.5 billion contract as have rival leasing companies such as Angel Trains and Eversholt.

Although some industry experts believe that Virgin could finance the deal with bank loans rather than through a train

leasing company, it could be clinched by one of Porterbrook's competitors if it made an attractive bid.

The deal with Stagecoach will need regulatory approval, and Opra, the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising, has already indicated it will need guarantees that passenger services will be improved.

Mr Branson insisted yesterday that he had not turned his back on a flotation because of fears that the City would not back Virgin Rail. "In fact, even after we knew of the offer from Stagecoach, our investors were still keen on a flotation, thinking that there could be a higher price. But there seemed to be some advantages in not spending time dealing with financial institutions and

roadshows but in getting on and running the railways."

Mr Branson took his Virgin Group back into private ownership last decade after a flotation proved disappointing. He bought back the shares at the float price.

Mr Branson said that the approach had been made by Mr Souter two weeks ago, after John Swift, the Rail

Regulator, approved Virgin's plans to work with Railtrack in improving the West Coast main line.

Mr Souter said yesterday that the approval of Virgin's deal with Railtrack was the key to his decision to bid for a stake in Virgin. "Virgin have done a good deal with Railtrack in sharing the revenue. That hasn't taken out all the

risk, but it has dealt with a lot of the risk and we are keen to work together on this."

Subsidies for Virgin's lines are falling and analysts believe the company faces the toughest targets. While the Stagecoach deal will share that risk for Virgin, many can see little advantage in Stagecoach's involvement.

Commentary, page 31



Brian Souter, left, of Stagecoach, and Richard Branson are linking up on two rail franchises in a £158 million deal. Picture by Breaton Edwards

Levy may join EMI after resigning at PolyGram

By CHRIS AVRES

ALAIN LEVY, who yesterday confirmed his resignation as president and chief executive of PolyGram, the entertainment group, may be on the verge of joining its competitor EMI. His resignation came as Canada's Seagram finalised its purchase of PolyGram for \$200 million (£120 million) less than its original offer.

Industry sources confirmed that Mr Levy, who is reportedly furious at the sale of the company, is free to compete

with PolyGram as soon as he leaves. Mr Levy, 51, who has been chief executive since 1991, is understood to be in talks with several rival entertainment groups, thought to include EMI.

Seagram, which owns Hollywood's Universal Studios, will pay \$10.4 billion for PolyGram. The price has been cut by \$200 million from the figures agreed in principle last month because its second-half results were poorer than expected.

PolyGram — behind rock

stars such as U2 and films such as Four Weddings and a Funeral — was effectively sold by Philips, the Dutch electronics group, which owned 75 per cent.

Mr Levy is thought to earn about \$4 million a year, and is expected to receive a payoff of up to \$10 million. He will be temporarily replaced by Jan Cook, chief financial officer, although Doug Morris of Seagram is expected to head the US company's expanded music division when the deal has been completed.

Nasdaq negotiates link with German exchange

By OLIVER AUGUST

NASDAQ and Deutsche Börse are negotiating an alliance between the American and German stock exchanges that would further undermine London's status as Europe's finance capital.

The New York exchange yesterday said: "The two organisations are exploring common ground. The talks are serious and concentrate mainly on common technology."

If the two exchanges link up, traders in New York and

Frankfurt could buy and sell the same shares, extending the business hours of both exchanges substantially.

Maggie Kelly, Nasdaq's vice-president of international marketing, said: "Germany is important in the European context and the Deutsche Börse is a key player."

The transatlantic alliance would be a further blow to London's standing as Frankfurt already has joint initiatives with most other European stock exchanges, including the Paris bourse, Deutsche Börse is also

competing with London's futures exchange for business. The German exchange has already attracted almost all trading in the German bond, the futures contracts for Germany's ten-year government bonds. The bonds used to be traded solely in London.

Nasdaq said it is talking to exchanges around the world about alliances but the negotiations with Deutsche Börse were the furthest advanced.

Ms Kelly said: "We are aggressively positioning ourselves as a global player."

A&L and Woolwich up on talk of merger

By ANNE ASHWORTH

SHARES in Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich rose on reports of a possible merger, although both groups were swift to dismiss the suggestions as "pure speculation".

The Alliance & Leicester touched 808p, closing at 797p, up 22p, while Woolwich ended the day 4p higher at 319p, having earlier traded at 342p. Both former building societies shed annual status last year.

Together, the banks would control some 10 per cent of the mortgage market. Given the overlap of branches in some areas, there would be considerable scope for cost cutting. But a merger would deprive the combined group of protection against takeover, leaving it vulnerable to an approach from a larger bank, such as Lloyds TSB. Converted building societies are protected from a hostile takeover for five years from the date of demutualisation unless they themselves turn predator.

Despite yesterday's denials, the Alliance & Leicester affirmed its wish to grow organically, or through an acquisition or merger. The Woolwich said it was interested in acquisitions in France and Italy where it already operates through divisions such as Banque Woolwich.

Richard Coleman, banking analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "A merger could do substantial damage to revenues. Branch closures and the loss of one brand name could mean that the customers of that bank decide to take their business elsewhere."

Advertisement for John Charcol mortgage services. Includes text: "I must follow them. I am their leader." "For lower rates, we lead from the front: 6.35% (6.6% APR) fixed to 1/8/2003." "JOHN CHARCOL 0800 71 81 91".

Still hope says rival for Rolls

By Adam Jones

ROLLS-ROYCE and Bentley enthusiasts are still desperately trying to mount a bid for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars before the sale to Volkswagen is completed on July 3.

Industry observers had thought the enthusiasts, who have formed a company called Crewe Motors, would give up when shareholders of Vickers, the Rolls-Royce parent group, approved the £430 million VW bid this month.

Sir Colin Chandler, the Vickers chairman, said Crewe Motors could not prove funding for a promised counter-bid. However, Michael Shrimpton, a Eurosceptic barrister who chairs Crewe Motors, said he still hoped to gazump VW.

He said he had commitments from unnamed wealthy owners around the world to buy Rolls for £460 million and match Volkswagen's £120 million sweetener offer for Cosworth, the Vickers car engine arm.

Mr Shrimpton, who has complained that he was denied a copy of the sales memorandum for two months, is renting an office in the landmark Lloyd's of London building in the heart of the City to continue his efforts. He moved in yesterday.

Regent Inns shares slide by £125m on warning

By Dominic Walsh

THE seemingly inexorable rise of Regent Inns since its flotation in 1993 came to a halt yesterday as a profit warning linked with the revelation of accounting errors sent the share price crashing.

Brokers marked the shares 140p lower at 176½p — wiping £125 million from its market capitalisation — after the company confessed to "a number of inconsistencies and inaccuracies in accounting treatments" totalling about £1.7 million. A spokesman said there was "no question of any fraud or black holes".

The company said that like-for-like sales figures had also been calculated incorrectly, there had been delays to pub openings and fiercer competition was hitting trading at some new pubs.

The statement had a knock-on effect on other managed pub operators, with Yates Brothers shedding 24p to 497½p, JD Wetherspoon 22½p to 290½p and Slug & Lettuce down 17p to 274½p.

The revelation of accounting problems comes after the appointment of Paul Huberman

as finance director three months ago. His predecessor, Clive Watson, who retired after eight years, issued a statement last night pointing out that the budgets referred to had been prepared and approved by the board in July 1997, and reviewed again in September. He added: "The components of the budget received their full endorsement."

David Franks, managing director, said the board had been completely unaware of the problems at the group's interim results in February. In the wake of those results, Mr Franks and three other directors sold shares worth £3 million. Yesterday's crash cut the value of Mr Franks' remaining 11.8 million shares from £37.3 million to £20.8 million.

Mr Franks, who described yesterday as "the worst day I've had in business", said he was confident about the group's prospects. He said an extra £1 million had been earmarked to upgrade IT, training and recruitment requirements.

Tempus, page 32

Firm debut for Alstom in face of order fears

By Adam Jones



Nick Salmon, left, with deputy chief executive, Jim Cronin

ALSTOM, the Anglo-French engineer formerly known as GEC Alsthom, made a steady debut on the French, UK and US stock markets yesterday, despite worries about Asian orders for its power stations, turbines and trains.

The placing of 52 per cent of its stock valued Alstom at more than £4.3 billion. Shares were priced at Fr205 (£20.50), in the middle of the indicated Fr190-220 range, and were three times oversubscribed.

In Paris, the shares traded close to the offer price most of the day and closed at Fr205. In London Alstom's debut was a success, with shares closing at £20.50.

Mark Davies-Jones, an analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, said: "It's not the most exciting debut, but perhaps not the easiest day to do it either."

Renewed fears of economic strife in the Far East have hammered engineering stock values in recent weeks.

Nick Salmon, president of Alstom's energy arm, said 18 per cent of the order book came from Asia last year. Playing down the effect of regional problems, he said: "We are in large infrastructure projects that take many years to develop. They are not things you turn on and off lightly."

Alstom was floated by GEC and Alcatel Alsthom of France.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Break-up call leads to review at Staveley

STAVELEY INDUSTRIES, the holding company whose interests include British Salt, is undertaking a strategic review of its business after calls by Guinness Peat Group (GPG) to break up the company. GPG, the investment group that is Staveley's second largest shareholder with 12.8 per cent, wants British Salt demerged into a separate company followed by a cash return to its long-suffering shareholders, a share buyback, and the repurchase of Staveley's cumulative stock.

GPG estimates Staveley's break-up value is about 165p a share. The shares rose 4p to 116½p yesterday, against a 12-month high of 187½p. Last year Staveley's pre-tax profits fell 59 per cent to £8.8 million from £21.3 million.

Nationwide cuts rates

THE Nationwide Building Society yesterday cut its rates for personal loans of more than £5,000 by 0.5 per cent, the latest tactic to protect its mutuality. The new APRs are: on loans of more than £5,000, 13.3 per cent; more than £10,000, 12.3 per cent; more than £15,000, 11.3 per cent. There has been controversy about next month's vote on converting the society into a bank. Some members have described the board's recommendations to reject conversion as "biased".

Ambishus acquisition

THE Ambishus Pub Company, which made its debut on AIM last month, has made its first acquisition. It has taken its number of pubs to 41 by buying ten from competitor JD Wetherspoon for £4.4 million. The acquisition will be funded largely by a £3 million placing and open offer and the issue of £440,000 worth of new shares to Wetherspoon, both at Friday's closing price of 200p. Ambishus is also selling a development site in Devon to Wetherspoon for £700,000.

Save in bid approach

SHARES in Save rose 24p to 137½p yesterday after the independent petrol station group revealed it had received a takeover approach. Although Save did not identify the suitor, weekend reports have indicated the approach came from Kuwait Petroleum, owner of the Q8 service station chain. At yesterday's closing price the company is capitalised at about £128 million. In its last full financial year Save suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £7.32 million from £10.37 million.

Carclo profits up 29%

CARCLO, the engineering group, raised pre-tax profits 29 per cent to £17.5 million on sales up 24 per cent to £181 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rose 34 per cent to 20.7p and the total dividend rises 2.3 per cent to 11p. George Kennedy, chairman, said: "Although the specialist card clothing wire business is suffering because of the Far Eastern turmoil, management action to mitigate the effects of the strong pound gives confidence of steady progress."

Enterprise discovery

SHARES in Enterprise Oil rose from 541p to 550p after the group revealed that it had made a "significant discovery" in the Gulf of Mexico and that it had sold £159 million of North Sea interests to the privately owned Intrepid Energy North Sea company. The Gulf of Mexico find is on the Liano prospect where Enterprise holds a 30 per cent stake. The North Sea disposals include Enterprise's interests in the Piper, Claymore, Saltire, Scapa and Nelson fields.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Sells	Buy	Sells
Australia \$	2.83	2.86
Austria Sch	22.10	22.44
Belgium Fr	65.05	65.00
Canada \$	2.595	2.596
Cyprus Cyp£	0.222	0.220
Denmark Kr	12.02	11.53
Egypt Pound	5.80	6.28
Finland Mk	9.67	9.82
France Fr	10.85	9.76
Germany Dm	3.18	2.92
Greece Dr	3.52	4.02
Hong Kong \$	13.77	12.57
Iceland	131	111
Ireland Pt	1.25	1.18
Israel Sh	6.48	5.83
Italy Lira	8131	2894
Japan Yen	245.70	223.17
Malta	0.267	0.228
Netherlands Gld	3.70	3.275
New Zealand \$	3.59	3.15
Norway Kr	13.31	12.57
Portugal Esc	318.55	297.52
S Africa Rand	9.37	8.91
Spain Pta	208.01	247.22
Sweden Kr	14.08	12.98
Switzerland Fr	2.05	2.44
Turkey Lira	44284	42385
USA \$	1.778	1.835

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Software activities fuel AEA progress

By Paul Durman

A STRONG contribution from AEA Technology's software businesses enabled the science-based group to reach its target of making a 10 per cent margin on sales.

Peter Watson, chief executive, is now aiming to create a £500 million-a-year business that makes a 12 per cent margin — which would double group profits. He said that the outlook remains positive, with strong demand for AEA's software and product development businesses.

AEA's total sales in the year to March 31 were £308.4 million, up 17 per cent. Pre-tax

profits rose to £29 million, from £18.5 million, and earnings per share rose to 23.5p, from 19.6p.

AEA shares rose 9p, to a high of 860p — more than treble the price the Government received when it privatised the company in September 1995.

Sales to the UK Atomic Energy Authority — which used to own AEA — fell again, to £33 million, down from about £90 million three years ago.

A 6.5p final dividend, due on October 1, makes 9.6p, up 14 per cent.

Bus company dips on news of US lawsuit

SHARES in National Express fell 39p to £10.15½ yesterday after the bus group received a claim for damages from Atlantic Express, the New York bus company with which it had confidential discussions in 1997 (Our City Staff writes).

National said it halted the discussions earlier this year and will "vigorously contest" the claim. Atlantic alleges breach of contract, tortious interference with business relations, and unfair competition, and claims damages of \$75 million (£45 million).

Goldman confirms talks with Cliveden

By Dominic Walsh

GOLDMAN SACHS, the US investment bank, yesterday confirmed that it is considering making an offer for Cliveden, the luxury hotel group that last week received a £44 million bid from a consortium of US investors including Bill Gates, the Microsoft multimillionaire.

In a statement, Goldman Sachs said that its Whitehall Street Real Estate partnership, together with Westmont Development, a US hotel group, were in discussions with Cliveden "which may or may not lead to a joint offer".

However, a spokesman for Cliveden last night said:

"There's only one offer on the table. Yes, there was a request for information, but it's got no further than that. It's only an expression of interest."

Industry sources believe that if Goldman Sachs offers anything more than 100p a share, the current bidder, Destination Europe, will not raise its 95p offer. There may still be a bid battle because Patriot American Hospitality, a US real estate investment trust, is thought to be considering an offer. If Cliveden accepts a rival bid, Destination Europe, of which Mr Gates has 10 per cent, is entitled to a £250,000 payment.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK
Stock Market Writer
of the Year

Slide continues as fears of fresh rate rise grow

SHARES continued to lose ground faced by the prospect of another interest rate rise next month and the failure of the G7 summit to halt the slide in the yen.

Comments from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, that interest rates would have to rise again to meet the high level of pay increases stunned the market. However, prices closed well above the day's lows supported by fresh speculative buying and a steady start to trading on Wall Street.

The FTSE 100 index, down 71.6 first thing, eventually reduced the deficit to close 35.7 off at 5,712.4. But it proved to be a lacklustre session that was reflected in a low trading volume of 675 million shares.

Early activity focused on the banks where Alliance & Leicester rose 22p to 797p on reports that it is merger talks with Woolwich, 4p better at 319p. Analysts said a merger would make commercial sense and produce Britain's third biggest supplier of mortgages.



Farad Azima, who saw Verity's price fall 12p to 80 1/2p despite reporting a 78 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits

was St George's, down 57p at £13.63 after the bus and train operator announced plans to buy out the 49 per cent stake held by venture capitalists in Virgin Rail for £138 million.

Stock market bears made themselves heard loud and clear in Verity Group as competition fears saw the shares tumble 12p to 80 1/2p. The flat audio speaker manufacturer has taken the market by storm during the past 18 months with the price coming up from a low of 26p.

never denied that there would be competition at some stage. Regent Inns was one of the market's worst performers dropping 140p, or 44 per cent, to 176 1/2p as 3.65 million shares changed hands.

The break-down in bid talks left Leslie Wise nursing a loss of 4p at 10 1/2p. The London textiles company first announced it had been approached in February. Despite the failure of the talks, the group will press ahead with the sale of two businesses.

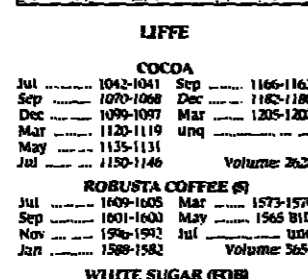
THE so-called metal bashers were coming under the hammer themselves yesterday. Losses were seen in British Steel, 9p to 131p.

Clivedon rose 8 1/2p to 101 1/2p at the prospect of Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, topping a bid of 95p a share made by a consortium that includes Bill Gates.

News of a takeover approach lifted Save Group 22p to 135 1/2p. The insurer is believed to be Kuwait Petroleum, owner of the Q8 garage chain.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt jumped £0.44 to £108.60 in thin trading that saw 40,000 contracts completed.

EARNINGS FORECASTS TOO HIGH



Source: DataStream

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues: ATA Group, Advance Dev Mkts, Anglo Siberian Oil, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues: Hardy Oil Gas n/p (25) 2, Old Eng Pbs n/p (30) 6, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes: RISES, FALLS, and other market movements.

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TEMPUS

Pints going flat

THE dramatic fall from grace of Regent Inns yesterday was, according to David Franks, the worst day of his business life.

MAJOR INDICES

Table listing major indices: New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, S&A Gen.

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COMMODITIES

Table listing commodities: LIFFE, CRUDE OILS, RUBBER, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing London financial futures: Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table listing dollar rates: Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.

OTHER STERLING

Table listing other sterling: Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, etc.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table listing FTSE volumes: ASDA, Abbey, Allied, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS

Table listing European money deposits: Currency, Dollar, Deutsche, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS

Table listing gold/precious metals: Bullion, Kruggerand, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table listing sterling spot and forward rates: Mid. Rates, Amsterdam, etc.

LIFFE OPTIONS

Table listing LIFFE options: Various contracts and prices.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table listing London metal exchange: Various metals and prices.

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LIFFE OPTIONS

Table listing LIFFE options: Various contracts and prices.

Large financial table listing various companies and their stock prices, including ASDA, Abbey, Allied, etc.

Early losses halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing various alcoholic beverage stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

BANKS

Table listing various bank stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing various brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing various building materials stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

CHEMICALS

Table listing various chemical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing various construction stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing various distributor stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing various food manufacturer stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Table listing various engineering and vehicle stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

ELECTRICITY

Table listing various electricity stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table listing various electronic and electrical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Table listing various household goods and textile stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

ENGINEERING

Table listing various engineering stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

INSURANCE

Table listing various insurance stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing various investment trusts with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing various healthcare stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing various leisure and hotel stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing various short-term bonds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table listing various long-term bonds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

UNDATED

Table listing various undated bonds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Table listing various medium-term bonds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing various index-linked bonds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing various food retailers with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing various general retailers with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing various alternative investment market stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

WATER

Table listing various water utility stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

PROPERTY

Table listing various property stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing various telecommunications stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

TRANSPORT

Table listing various transport stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing various other financial stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

MEDIA

Table listing various media stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing various pharmaceutical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table listing various printing and paper stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

MINING

Table listing various mining stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

OIL & GAS

Table listing various oil and gas stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

PROPERTY

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Table listing various transport stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

WATER

Table listing various water utility stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

PROPERTY

Table listing various property stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing various telecommunications stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

TRANSPORT

Table listing various transport stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

WATER

Table listing various water utility stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing various food retailers with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing various general retailers with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing various alternative investment market stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

WATER

Table listing various water utility stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

PROPERTY

Table listing various property stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

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TRANSPORT

Table listing various transport stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

WATER

Table listing various water utility stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % P/E.

Advertisement for First Direct banking services, including the phone number 0800 24 24 24 and a list of services.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

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125A

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund type and name. Columns include fund name, price, and other financial metrics.

CHANEL Fine Jewellery advertisement featuring a diamond ring and promotional text: '18 CARAT YELLOW GOLD MATELASSER BAND RINGS WITH PRECIOUS STONES - FROM £990'.

Source: FT Information. Includes a note about the FT Information source and a small 'The creation' logo.

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Alan Kitchin at Ashursts in Tokyo on +813 5276 5900 (alan.kitchin@ashursts.com) or write to him at Kioicho Building, 8th Floor, 3-12 Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0094

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GKN is committed to growth and offers exciting opportunities for career enhancement and development. The Aerospace & Special Vehicles portfolio in particular is undergoing rapid growth and change.

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Applications should be made to Mr C. L. Brown, Chief Legal Adviser - Strategic Contracts, GKN plc, Westland Works, 6th Fl, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2YB.



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Please quote reference 1149.



LAW

● LAW REPORT 38
● BOSSES' CAPERS 43

Geoffrey Bindman, below, explains why the Government must back up its good intentions with hard cash

The Times/Justice Human Rights Awards, presented earlier this year by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, at 11 Downing Street marked the arrival of human rights at the centre of the political stage. The Human Rights Bill, continuing its committee stage in the Commons this week, will make the European Human Rights Convention — now accessible only by a tortuous journey to Strasbourg — enforceable in domestic courts.

through its parliamentary stages with speed and vigour. But if the Government's aims are to be achieved, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's role will be much more than a ceremonial one. Unless he is prepared to provide the resources to satisfy the expectations aroused by the Bill, the whole project may prove to be a snare and a delusion.



Human rights or just plain rough justice?

there will be no damage or costs to make the gamble worthwhile. The Government is well aware of these problems. It has promised a fund to help to finance human rights cases. The legal aid proposals also contemplate a fund to finance public interest cases which would not otherwise fall within the legal aid scheme.

been budgeted for training judges in human rights, but no money has been provided for anyone else. Where litigation is necessary, it will usually affect more than one individual. It makes little sense to leave it to individual initiative to pursue collective claims. Yet there is no alternative unless the Government provides it.

on abuses and, above all, the simplification and close monitoring of civil procedure recommended by Lord Woolf. — will undoubtedly cut costs. Out of these savings, the resources to make the Human Rights Act enforceable ultimately be found. Unfortunately, the timing does not fit. To introduce the Human Rights Act without proper funding could irreparably undermine its credibility and thereby its constitutional impact.

INNS AND OUTS
Advocating a finer time

SOLICITOR-advocates are having a good run. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, will any day now announce wider rights of audience for employed lawyers and, last week, the inquiry by the law lords into legal aid fees charged by QCs in appeals featured two solicitor-advocates.

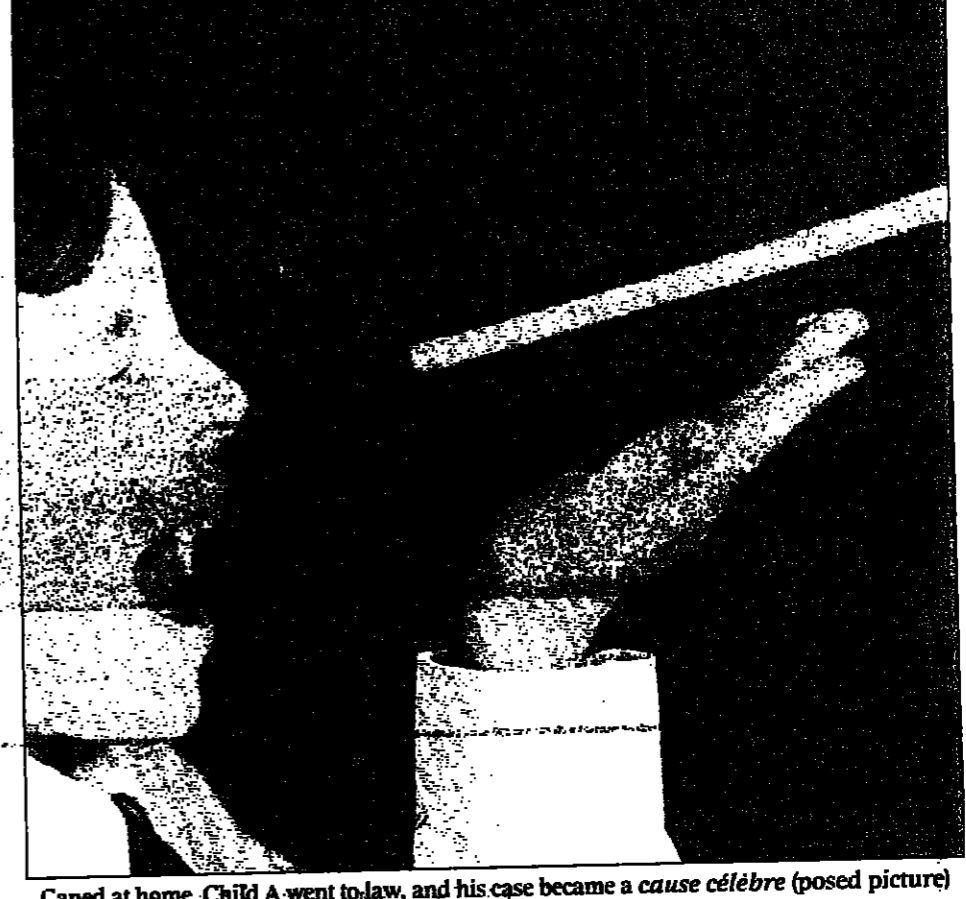
to tell him about their experiences. How can ministers contemplate scrapping juries in fraud trials, he asks, until we know how they operate? He hopes to compile the jurors' comments in a book. Contact 0171-435 7351.

No, beating children is not 'reasonable'

Violence to children remains legal in Britain and many other countries. But yesterday judges at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg were asked to decide for the first time whether "reasonable chastisement" of children in the home should be permitted.

Michael Gardner reports on a landmark child cruelty case

father have done a great service not just to children, but to European society by challenging the outdated and dangerous concept of "reasonable chastisement".



Caned at home. Child A went to law, and his case became a cause célèbre (posed picture)



Let me through; I won't sue
Points of law were forgotten for a few hours when the chambers of Nicholas P. Valios, QC, took a 1977 5.3-litre Jaguar XJS to the Silverstone Grand Prix course in Northamptonshire for the 23rd annual Aston Martin Owners Club Inter-Marque Championship.

SCRIVENOR
The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 makes cruelty to children a criminal offence but allows parents and carers rights to administer punishment to their children, and it has been up to the English courts to determine what constitutes "reasonable

UK law has failed to provide protection
Almost a quarter of seven-year-olds had experienced "severe" punishment by mothers. In the year up to the interviews, three in four mothers admitted hitting their one-year olds. A fifth of the children had been hit with an implement and 35 per cent had experienced "severe" punishment. Three years ago the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Human Rights Treaty Body, which oversees implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, formally recommended that the Government prohibit all corporal punishment, including within the family, and promote education campaigns in positive discipline. It has made similar recommendations to other countries. The convention has been ratified by 101 countries, including the UK, and requires contracting states to end legal and social approval of corporal punishment of children.

STUART & FRANCIS
The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 makes cruelty to children a criminal offence but allows parents and carers rights to administer punishment to their children, and it has been up to the English courts to determine what constitutes "reasonable

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Alex Wade on a woman who blew the whistle on sexual harassment at work

A sexual scandal

Martin Bowley, QC, offers the Government some advice on important reforms

Beware of employers who like lurking around and placing camcorders under staff desks. Even if they are not hammered in a tribunal, their "bit of a laugh" could end up plastered all over the national and local press.



Video game that wasn't so funny

proceedings were duly instituted. The SDA imposes liability on employers for acts of their employees carried out in the course of their employment.

clear that Mr Lambie would be staying at Lex and that he would, to all intents and purposes, receive no more than a slap on the wrist for his activities. This Ms Brinton found just as appalling as her original harassment and she wanted her story told.

There are very few votes in law reform, as any chairman of the Law Commission will ruefully concede. In the turgid 1,000-page account of his first administration, Harold Wilson failed to mention at all the 1967 Abortion Act, the 1967 Sexual Offences Act or the 1968 Theatres Act.



Gay Pride goes on the march in London

equality of sexuality across the board. Against that background, it must provide protection and penalties against all sexual assaults, however minor, however grave. It must also protect those under the age of consent, wherever it is set.

been yet another example of piecemeal reform. And that has only resulted in a body of law which is riddled with contradictions and absurdities. For example, a "rent boy" is not in law a "common prostitute" and thus cannot be prosecuted under the 1959 Street Offences Act.

Legal recruitment advertisement for Garfield Robbins in London and Sydney. It lists various roles such as Private Equity, Insolvency, Banking/Transaction Management, Tax Senior, and Corporate Counsel, along with contact information.

Advertisement for Chambers Professional Recruitment. It lists various job openings in industries like FMCG, Engineering, and Law, with detailed descriptions and contact details.

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THE TIMES



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Notice of Annual for B&K
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Chairman: Charles Hearnley, 4 Aldgate, London E1 3AF
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Member: Alan Hearnley, 4 Aldgate, London E1 3AF

LEGAL NOTICES

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 48 (3) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held on Wednesday 1st July 1998 at 11.00 am at the offices of the Receiver, Messrs. W & A Phipps, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, for the purpose of having an account laid before them, showing the amount received up to the date of the meeting and the progress of the administration of the assets of the company, and of the proposed distribution of the assets of the company.

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RACING: HANDICAPPERS IMPRESSED BY VICTORIES OF INTIKHAB AND BINT ALLAYL AT ROYAL FIXTURE

Ascot performances win rave reviews

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

PLACING an event in historical context can be a risky business at the best of times, all the more so when horses are involved and the event in question took place only a few days ago. However, it may not be stretching the bounds of credibility to suggest Royal Ascot 1998 will be remembered as the best meeting for years in terms of equine performance.

As the dust began to settle yesterday on the four-day fixture, the British Horseracing Board handicappers charged with judging the merit of every horse in training applied their slide-rules to last week's winners - and came up with some spectacular conclusions.

For starters, when Intikhab won the opening Queen Anne Stakes by a stunning eight lengths from Among Men the Godolphin-owned horse recorded the best performance over a mile in Europe since that of Mark Of Esteem in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes in 1996 - and he would not need to show much more improvement this season to join the greats.

Then there was the silky victory of Bint Allayl in the Queen Mary Stakes. Not only did she prove to be the best Queen Mary winner since Lyric Fantasy in 1992, but the performance of the Mick Channon-trained filly entitles her to be regarded as superior to every colt and filly to have run in Britain this season.

Not to be outdone, Diktat was one of the best winners of the Jersey Stakes for several seasons, while the comprehensive victory of Royal Anthem over Killmanjaro in the King Edward VII Stakes showed he

is "closing fast" on the best three-year-olds, according to Nigel Gray, who handicaps the middle-distance horses. However, the performance of the week undoubtedly belonged to Intikhab, and trained last year by the late and much missed David Morley, the Red Ransom colt has not stopped improving since winning a listed race at Epsom last September and, but for being tried over too long a trip in Dubai during the winter, he would be unbeaten in his last seven starts.

Some measure of the improvement he has made can be gauged by Almusharak, a consistent performer and reliable yardstick. Last September, Almusharak finished 1 1/2 lengths behind Intikhab at Epsom. Last Tuesday, having almost certainly run to his best form, he was 9 1/2 lengths away in fourth.

Indeed, it was the performances of Almusharak and Among Men, the runner-up, which Dominic Gardner-Hill has used to elevate Intikhab to a rating of 129. "I was delighted at the quality of the opposition he beat," he said. "Among Men returned to his best, which fits in with Almusharak, who is a proven soft-ground performer, running to the same level as when he won the Sandown Mile. It was then just a question of what value to place on the eight-length winning margin."

If anything, Gardner-Hill has erred on the cautious side by deciding Intikhab was a stone superior to Among Men. He could have easily extended his victory of Royal Anthem over Killmanjaro in the King Edward VII Stakes showed he



Bint Allayl, ridden by Frankie Detori, leaves her rivals trailing in the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot last week

the champion miler of 1989. Nonetheless, Intikhab can still be compared favourably with the likes of Selkirk, Warning, Markofdistinction and Priolo, to mention just a few. "It is going to take a good horse to beat him this season. You would not know how good Intikhab is because he may have had a bit in hand when winning at Ascot."

Matthew Tester, who is responsible for rating the two-year-olds, said the juvenile performance of the week undoubtedly belonged to Bint Allayl. "She is a classy horse and I believe she is something very special."

Wither Swinburn rides Saratoga Springs for Aidan O'Brien in the Budweiser Irish Derby at the Curragh on Sunday.

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and other details for the Northumberland Plate race.

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

Table listing leading prices for various races, including horse names and odds.

IT WOULD be easy to believe that Arctic Owl is home and hosed in the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle on Saturday, as James Fanshawe's charge picks up just a 3lb penalty for his 14-length victory of Top Ceas (subsequently an easy winner at Ayr) at York 11 days ago.

4.45 HBS MAIDEN HANDICAP

Table listing horses and odds for the 4.45 HBS Maiden Handicap race.

5.15 POLYGON (HUMBERSIDE) MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for the 5.15 Polygon (Humberside) Maiden Auction Stakes race.

However, Arctic Owl's best form is on soft ground, a point not lost on Fanshawe, who said yesterday, "He seems fine but I just hope it doesn't get too dry. I think it will be a tough race to win."

4.15 PHOENIX PARK A&I MAIDEN STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for the 4.15 Phoenix Park A&I Maiden Stakes race.

5.15 POLYGON (HUMBERSIDE) MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for the 5.15 Polygon (Humberside) Maiden Auction Stakes race.

BEVERLEY

THUNDERER 2.45 Coral Reef. 2.45 Tykvor. 3.15 Fantail. 3.45 Loyal Toast. 4.15 Harmony. 4.45 Finarts Bay. 5.15 Catch Me.

2.15 POLYGON (HUMBERSIDE) MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for the 2.15 Polygon (Humberside) Maiden Auction Stakes race.

2.45 REGIONAL UNIVERSITY CLAIMING STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for the 2.45 Regional University Claiming Stakes race.

3.15 113TH YEAR OF THE WATT MEMORIAL HANDICAP

Table listing horses and odds for the 3.15 113th Year of the Watt Memorial Handicap race.

3.45 UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLNSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE HANDICAP

Table listing horses and odds for the 3.45 University of Lincolnshire & Humberside Handicap race.

4.15 PHOENIX PARK A&I MAIDEN STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for the 4.15 Phoenix Park A&I Maiden Stakes race.

4.45 HBS MAIDEN HANDICAP

Table listing horses and odds for the 4.45 HBS Maiden Handicap race.

5.15 POLYGON (HUMBERSIDE) MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for the 5.15 Polygon (Humberside) Maiden Auction Stakes race.

3.00 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for the 3.00 Tattersalls Maiden Stakes race.

3.30 TOTE HANDICAP (SHOWCASE)

Table listing horses and odds for the 3.30 Tote Handicap (Showcase) race.

4.00 SCREWS STAKES

Table listing horses and odds for the 4.00 Screws Stakes race.

4.30 CHAMPAGNE JACQUART FILLES HANDICAP

Table listing horses and odds for the 4.30 Champagne Jacquart Filles Handicap race.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE, featuring a chessboard and text by Robert Sheehan.

Advertisement for KEENE on CHESS, featuring a chessboard and text by Raymond Keene.

Advertisement for YARMOUTH, featuring a chessboard and text by Richard Evans.

Advertisement for RICHARD EVANS, featuring a chessboard and text about chess.

Advertisement for WINNING MOVE, featuring a chessboard and text about chess.

Advertisement for BEVERLEY, featuring a chessboard and text about chess.

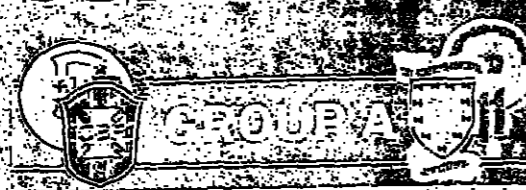
Advertisement for WORD-WATCHING, featuring a list of words and their meanings.

Advertisement for COURSE SPECIALISTS, featuring a list of race courses and specialists.

Advertisement for BEVERLEY, featuring a list of race courses and specialists.

Large advertisement for LINGFIELD PARK, featuring race results, course specialists, and other racing information.

THE WORLD CUP TODAY



BRAZIL v NORWAY

FROM DAVID POWELL

Norway Norway. The roadblock that is Brazil stands in the path of the Scandinavians reaching the second round for the first time.

Dan Eggen, the Norway defender, is "Realistically, we do not have much of a chance," he said yesterday.

The Norwegians are unbeaten in 17 months and saw off Brazil 4-2 in Oslo last year.

Compare the goals Norway have scored with those from Brazil. An own goal and a goalkeeping error to give Eggen a gift as Norway drew with Morocco.

BRAZIL (probable: 4-4-2) 1 Taffel - 2 Caú, 3 Alder, 14 Gonçalves, 8 Roberto Carlos - 8 Dunga, 18 Leonardo, 10 Ronaldo, 19 Dondos, 20 Beto, 9 Ronaldo

SCOTLAND v MOROCCO

Scots primed to succeed, page 50

SCOTLAND (probable: 3-5-2) 1 J Lightfoot - 16 D Wier, 6 G Hendry, 3 T Boyd - 2 J McNamee, 6 C Curry, 14 P Lambert, 11 J Collins, 22 C Duff - 7 H Dalrymple, 9 G Dunge

MOROCCO (probable: 4-2-3) 1 A Bess - 2 A Sabir, 6 N Nayef, 4 Y Riss, 3 A el-Hachimi - 15 L Aham, 20 T Lakhal, 18 F Chao - 7 M Hady - 14 S Bess, 9 A Hadda

OTHER ODDS: Ronaldo 5-1; Salas, Henry 6-1; Shearer 10-1; Owen 25-1.

HOT SHOTS

- 4: G Batistuta (Arg), 3: M Salas (Chile), T Henry (Fr), C Vieri (It), 2: A Ortega (Arg), M Wilms (Bel), L Hernandez (Mex), D Suker (Cro).

GOLDEN BOOT

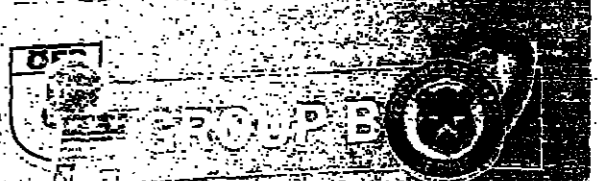
Gabriel Batistuta, the Argentina striker, is now a 2-1 favourite to lead the scorers' list after his hat-trick against Jamaica on Sunday.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Points. Shows group standings for various teams.

IN THE NET

Official website for the 1998 World Cup, providing information on tickets, schedules, and team details.

Main tournament schedule table showing dates, times, venues, and match results for various groups (A through H).



CHILE v CAMEROON

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

Chile, believe it or not, are still looking for their first win in the World Cup finals since they took third place in Santiago in 1962.

The strike force consists of the dynamic Salas and Ivan Zamorano, who was again in pulsating form against Austria.

Cameroon, who succumbed to Italy having been reduced to ten men shortly before half-time by the dismissal of Kalla, are expected to deploy a new attack.

ITALY v AUSTRIA

Vieri outshining strike partner, page 51

ITALY (probable: 1-3-4-2) 12 G Pagliuca - 5 A Costacurra - 6 A Nesta, 4 F Cannavaro, 17 F Montuori - 9 D Albertini, 14 L di Biagio, 17 D Baggio, 3 P Mackay - 21 C Vieri, 10 A del Piero

AUSTRIA (probable: 1-3-5-2) 1 M Konecny - 5 W Fejersinger - 4 A Pfister, 3 F Schotzler - 13 H Comy, 22 D Kurbauer, 17 R Meisl, 8 A Pfisterberger, 15 A Wolf - 19 A Postner, 9 I Vastiz

COVERAGE: Television: ITV (from 2.45pm, live), Eurosport (from 2.30pm), Radio: Radio 5 Live, Radio: Radio 5 Live, Talk Radio

CARDS

YELLOW

- Argentina: J Chano, Austria: A Pfeifer, P Schotzler, Belgium: L Staelens, E Odebrecht, G Vidoss, Brazil: Cezar Sampaio, D Azev, Amor Soares, Shalvester A Nankov, H Stachkov, T Ivanov, I Ilyev, R Vechikov, Cameroon: S Ibra, P Woma, T Bantia, D Angbeuati, R Salas, Chile: N Parraguez, C Acuña, F Rojas, M Wilms, F Escay, M Salas, I Zamorano, Colombia: J Garcia, C Gonzalez, E W Fejersinger - 4 A Pfister, 3 F Schotzler - 13 H Comy, 22 D Kurbauer, 17 R Meisl, 8 A Pfisterberger, 15 A Wolf - 19 A Postner, 9 I Vastiz

RED

- Belgium: G Verheyen, Bulgaria: A Nankov, Cameroon: R Kalla Nkwang, Denmark: M Mohr, M Waghorn, France: Z Zidane, Holland: P Klamer, Jamaica: D Powell, Macedonia: P Parov, Saudi Arabia: M al-Rashid, South Africa: A Phiso, South Korea: H Seok H.

Summary table showing P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various teams including Brazil, Norway, Scotland, Morocco, Italy, Chile, Austria, Cameroon, France, Denmark, South Africa, Nigeria, Paraguay, Spain, Bulgaria, Holland, Mexico, Belgium, South Korea, Germany, Yugoslavia, Iran, US, England, Romania, Colombia, Tunisia, and Argentina.

WORLD CUP 98

Exhilarating joy of playing politics

TGV

Truss's Grand Voyage

Toulouse

When the teams came out to warm up on Sunday night in Lyons...

As it turned out, that's approximately how both teams left the field afterwards...

The official, stated Iranian mission in entering the World Cup finals had been to show the country in a new light...



Ernie Stewart is a lone United States player among celebrating Iranians as the final whistle sounds in Lyons on Sunday. Photograph: Denis Doyle

into the dissidents, or the scuffles between factions. Similarly, you might not have guessed from the even-handed pictures that the sporadically cheering American fans were outnumbered by chanting, drumming and hooting Iranians by approximately ten to one.

ately turned a football match into a rally, though? Oddly, no. Football was quite touchingly glorified by all this grand emotion.

son, the United States coach, had reinstated some of his experienced attackers omitted from the Germany game and had reduced his usual bizarre six-in-midfield line-up to a more normal five.

ones with moustaches! was the perpetual warning call to little Cobi Jones, who seemed forever to be dancing on the spot, dithering over whether to go for the ball in 50-50 tackles and then suddenly remembering what the better part of valour is said to be.

"here come the marines", is completely out of the question in football that you properly get the hang of it.

Interesting that the American midfielder player, Frankie Hejduk, is a committed surfer, incidentally, because surfing was what the ineffectual American attack resembled most.

'Football was touchingly glorified by all this grand emotion'

from the goalposts or sailed clear overhead, as the players succumbed yet again to the undertow. Sadly, the ecstatic cheering for the Iran goalkeeper, Ahmad Abedzadeh, did not really reflect his role in the game.

Which brings us back to the sheer phenomenal joy of this match. Tens of thousands of people cheered a team to their first victory in the World Cup finals.

LYNNE TRUSS

Pundits show game of two styles

THIRTEEN days into the tournament, the formlines are emerging. Brazil are bubbling nicely beneath the surface.

ITV clearly holds the high ground in pallidness, that indeterminate quality that immediately draws together a group in harmony.

armchair slumber. The clash of contrasting opinions, as loved by American chat shows, can make compulsive viewing.

and half-answers; a tangle of emotions, of spleens semi-vented and feelings unaired.

Hadda strides on to world stage

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE MOROCCO have long been giants in African football and as the team have shown already in this tournament, there is a reservoir of young talent that they can tap into.

As the 26-year-old striker ponders on that goal, his handsome face is a picture of pure bliss. "Like every player in the World Cup I felt exceptional emotion scoring that goal," he said, smiling broadly. "It was magic."



Hadda: still optimistic

encouragement. But Hadda insisted that they have put that disappointment behind them. "Playing against Brazil is very hard and everybody knows that we played a good match that we played a good match too," he said.

Evans makes case for defence

Advertisement for William Hill featuring a 'FREE £10 BET' offer and a table of World Cup scores for matches like Scotland vs Morocco, Italy vs Cameroon, and Brazil vs Norway.

Evans makes case for defence

WHILE the World Cup contributions of Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, have been high profile — just ask Glenn Hoddle — Roy Evans, his counterpart at Liverpool, has assumed a more discreet role in France.

Large advertisement for BT's ISDN service, titled 'Why wait to download?' and 'BT's ISDN is the fastest way to access data.' It includes contact information for BT and a Nokia logo.

WORLD CUP 98

Scotland ready to cross their bridge too far

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN ST-ETIENNE

TEASED by the vision of an achievement on a scale that they have never before attained, Scotland must decide how great a risk they will take in the attempt to grasp it. This evening, at the Geoffroy Guichard stadium here, Craig Brown's team could qualify for the second round of the World Cup by beating Morocco.

No Scotland side has advanced to that stage in seven previous attempts. But if Morocco are overcome, only an unlikely victory for Norway over Brazil could prevent them from taking the runners-up place in group A. This side is more optimistic than its predecessors, but also more talented. Scotland's football history may appear repetitive, but a new set of circumstances have emerged in France.

For supporters, the modern era of World Cup involvement begins with the national team's participation in the finals in West Germany. Then, and at every subsequent tournament until 1990, Scotland entered the third match in the group stage with some prospect of progressing further. The inability actually to do so owes as much to the nature of the opposition as to the side's own flaws.

In those five matches, spread over 16 years, Scotland have faced Yugoslavia (1974), Holland (1978), USSR (1982), Uruguay (1986) and Brazil (1990). The first three of those nations are famed for the abundance of talented players they produce, while the last two have won the World Cup on a combined total of six occasions. All Scots have these matters imprinted on their minds and that fact goes far to explain the high spirits of Brown's side.

Morocco cannot be such redoubtable adversaries. Should Scotland lose, they would be succumbing to a poorer standard of conqueror and that outcome is not envis-

aged. Brown's main concern must be the propensity of his players to collect more plaudits than points. A composed effort against Brazil and a dominant performance against Norway have brought, respectively, a 2-1 defeat and a 1-1 draw.

TEAMS

SCOTLAND (probable: 3-5-2): J. Leighton (Aberdeen) — D. Weir (Heart of Midlothian), C. Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), T. Boyd (Celtic) — J. McNamara (Celtic), G. Burley (Celtic), F. Lambert (Celtic), J. Collins (St. Mirren), C. Dooly (Derry City) — K. Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers), G. Durie (Rangers).

MOROCCO (probable: 4-3-1-2): A. Benali (FAR Rabat) — A. Sabri (Sporting Lisbon), N. Naybet (Deportivo la Coruna), Y. Rossi (Pierrel), A. el-Hadroui (Benfica) — L. Abenti (Niced), T. Lakhal (Benfica), Y. Chippo (Ponto) — M. Hadji (Deportivo la Coruna) — S. Bassir (Deportivo la Coruna), A. Hadda (Club Africain).

Referee: Ali Mohamed Bujum (JAE).

in his calculation that he has enjoyed only one half-chance. His partner in attack, Gordon Durie, could make a similar reckoning.

Often there have been too few players pushing into the opposition's penalty area, so Brown's decision to keep Craig Burley in the attacking midfield position from which he equalised against Norway is welcome, but others, too, will have to be given a licence to show adventure.

"I tell them that if you don't buy a ticket you can't win the raffle," the manager said, confirming that the side must be forthright this evening. Brown, in general, prefers analysis to gut instinct and the fastidiousness has served Scotland well. With a greater

challenge before him, however, a conservative attitude is no longer sufficient.

Brown professed an unease over the "euphoria" that was breaking out in his country and insisted that the team "will not be putting on the warpaint". Despite those strictures, he is well aware that Scotland have fallen 1-0 behind in six of their past seven matches. "The idea is to retaliate first on this occasion," he said.

There is a lingering concern over the cost of recklessness against a Morocco side guided into swift and smooth counter-attack by Mustapha Hadji, the playmaker, in the 2-2 draw with Norway almost a fortnight ago. Henri Michel, drawing seven players from clubs in Portugal and Spain, has a talented team with an Iberian tone to its well-articulated moves. This, however, has been a distressing spell for Morocco.

The magnitude of the 3-0 defeat by Brazil increased the discontent of fringe members of the party who felt that they ought to be in the team and Michel may have to replace Driss Benzekri, who has conceded five goals in the tournament, with Abdelkader El Brazi, who had been out of favour with the coaches. Hadji's fitness is questionable as long as he is obliged to play with a broken toe that requires pain-killing injections. In attack, the slight but fêted figure of Salaheddine Bassir has not yet scored.

With Billy McKinlay now out of the competition and sent home to see a specialist who will determine whether surgery is required on damaged abdominal muscles, Scotland, too, have their concerns. Darren Jackson is suspended and Colin Calderwood injured. Nonetheless, it is impossible to shake off the notion that, at last, their moment of triumph is near at hand.



Blond bombshell: Burley, his hair dyed for the occasion, prepares for the decisive group A match against Morocco in St-Etienne tonight

Ready to make a big impression

Craig Burley says the Scots are in determined mood as they attempt to reach the second round for the first time

There are all kinds of reasons for wanting a victory over Morocco in St-Etienne this evening. Assuming that Norway do not beat Brazil, it would take us into the second round of the World Cup and it would mean a great occasion to come, probably against Italy in Marseille on Saturday. Best of all, though, it would shut people up.

I am tired of hearing that Scotland have never got beyond the first phase of the World Cup. That is something we have lived with for far too long. This time, the situation is different. In 1990, Scotland had to play Brazil in their final match and lost 1-0. With all due respect, a match with Morocco is a different proposition. Although Morocco can

knock the ball about, I hope we can keep a clean sheet and also be sharper in attack. Every team looks to improve in each game it plays and I feel we have got better over the first two games. To be honest, before we arrived in France, I was apprehensive about playing Brazil.

It was the opening match and, at that stage, I could not help thinking of the millions of people who would be watching. Since we arrived in France, though, we have realised that we are comfortable with the pressure and we have begun to enjoy it. Of course, you can never be sure what you will face at a World Cup and that is part of the attraction.

None of us has experience of African football, but we know that Morocco have been called the best team in Africa. That has to be taken as a serious warning when you see how well Nigeria have done

in this World Cup. Morocco lost 3-0 to Brazil, but they played far better than the score would suggest. It is not going to be easy for Scotland and we now have to prove ourselves by taking the next big step into the second round.

We all have the feeling that we can do that. Even before

we had so many offers of free dental work that I would have enough false teeth to supply the entire squad if I had accepted them all. I tried to be nice in turning down the man in Munich and I said I could not go there because I would soon be back in pre-season training.

He is not the sort of person to be discouraged and said I could do the coaching in the autumn instead. I will not be taking him up on that. My teeth have been like this for a long time and I am comfortable about

'There's something very Scottish about kneeling yourself in the face'

the game tonight. Scotland have caught the eye in other countries. Last week, a dentist in Munich, who had seen me on television, got in touch to say that he would fix my teeth if I went to Germany and did some coaching with children there.

I thought it might be a practical joke, but Paul Lambert convinced me that it was genuine. Over the years, I

mother was not too happy when she saw me.

I had problems getting through the turkey and the rest of the Christmas food. In fact, on the drive up, I could hardly cope with the chicken and ham sandwiches that my landlady had made for me and I remember being on the M6 trying to eat them out of the side of my mouth. Ah, the glamour of a footballer's life!

By now, I am used to my dentures. There would be no point in trying to get anything more complex done while I am still playing because my teeth might be damaged again. There will be one major change of appearance: noticeable against Morocco. On Saturday, Simon Donnelly, Jonathan Gould and I all decided to have our hair dyed blonde.

I did it, but the other two lost their nerve and changed their mind. I do not care because I think it looks good. The rest of the guys call me Billy Idol. Even so, I am confident that the team is going to make a big impression tonight that has nothing to do with the colour of my hair.

Hadda's goal, page 49

Bulgaria's stop-outs in trouble

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HRISTO STOICHKOV and Luboslav Penev, the Bulgaria strikers, are facing disciplinary action by the team coach, Hristo Bonev, for staying out overnight in Paris without permission.

Ivan Vusov, general secretary of the Bulgaria Football Union, said the players, who trained with the rest of the squad yesterday, appeared to have spent the night away from the team hotel and that Bonev would decide how to punish them.

Bulgaria meet Spain tomorrow in a match that will decide whether the 1994 semi-finalist reach the second round. Scarborough residents will remember that the Bulgarians found the town boring during Euro 96, because of the lack of night life, and changed their headquarters.

Danish officials have written to Fifa expressing dissatisfaction with the Colombian referee of their game with South Africa, which finished 1-1. Lars Berendt, a spokesman for the Denmark FA, said that the letter was not a formal complaint but an expression of their feelings about a match that saw two Denmark players sent off and three others shown yellow cards.


"We didn't want to protest, because we would not have gained anything by it," Berendt said. "But we felt we had at least to draw Fifa's attention to this referee." John Jairo Toro handed out a total of seven yellow cards and three red cards in the match and one Danish newspaper called him "an infantile Colombian coffee-picker wearing a dunce's hat and holding a Fifa referee's certificate".



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Numero Uno's Nastro Azzurro, Italy's Numero Uno Beer.



52 TENNIS
Henman struggles to overcome first-round hurdle

SPORT

TOMORROW
Gary Neville reflects on his World Cup debut

TUESDAY JUNE 23 1998

Hodde's men left with prospect of battling with Colombia for second place in group G

England sunk by late Petrescu goal

Scoreboard: ROMANIA 2, ENGLAND 1. Goalscorers: Moldovan (47), Petrescu (90) for Romania; Owen (83) for England. Venue: Toulouse, 37,500.

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S hopes of qualifying for the second round of the World Cup were dealt a devastating blow last night after they suffered a heart-breaking 2-1 defeat to Romania just when Michael Owen, a late substitute, seemed to have rescued a point for them with an 83rd minute goal.

England. A tense four days lies ahead. England had started well. Anderton, upon whom so much pressure has been placed because of his surprise inclusion at the expense of Beckham, produced more in the opening 15 minutes here than he had in the entire game against Tunisia in Marseilles a week ago.

GROUP G

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for Romania, England, Colombia, Tunisia. Includes results and remaining matches.

England had deservedly fallen behind to a goal from the Coventry City striker Viorel Moldovan two minutes after half-time but seemed to have been rescued by Owen when he pounced on a low cross from Shearer at the near post seven minutes from the final whistle and blasted in an equaliser.

After Hagi had been booked for a combination of two poor tackles on Ince and Campbell, and Anderton had fired in a fierce shot that whistled just over the Romania crossbar from the edge of the area, it seemed that England had established a clear early dominance.

That was confirmed in the eighth minute when Anderton sent over a looping cross from the right and Shearer caused chaos in the opposition defence when he challenged Stelea for the high ball. When it dropped, Galca inadvertently poked the ball towards his own net under pressure from Scholes and Popescu had to chest it off the line.



Hagi, architect of the Romania goal, is the meat in the sandwich between Shearer, left, and Batty, as Sheringham, right, looks on. Photograph: Marc Aspland

nia came perilously close to taking the lead. Munteanu struck the best ball of the game, a glorious 50-yard cross-field pass, to lie on the right wing. He took it on his chest and ran at Le Saux before lobbing the most delicate of chips over Seaman. The England goalkeeper, knowing he was beaten, stood rooted to the spot but the ball cannoned off the face of his crossbar and bounced away to safety.

England seemed shocked rather than relieved by this escape. Then, after 33 minutes, England suffered another blow when Paul Ince, such an influential figure in midfield, appeared to turn his left ankle in open play and signalled immediately that he had to come off.

His misfortune, though, provided the opportunity that Beckham has been yearning for and the Manchester United midfielder strode onto the pitch to a deafening cheer from the England fans massed behind both goals.

Still Romania controlled the pace of the game, though. For long periods they slowed it down into languid spells of near inactivity before bursting into life, keeping possession for prolonged periods, making England chase the game.

Eventually, less than two minutes after the second half had begun, they made their superiority pay. Le Saux allowed Hagi to slip past him to receive a throw-in from the right wing. Hagi let the ball bounce and then flicked a cross into the centre. Adams appeared to be caught unaware and the ball looped over his head towards the penalty spot where Moldovan was lurking. The Coventry City striker took the ball on his chest, let it bounce and then volleyed it unerringly past the on-rushing Seaman.

If the goal was the fault of the static England defence, much of the blame for the team's poor performance had to be shouldered by a midfielder who were out-thought and out-maneuvred by the clever short-passing and changes of pace of their opponents.

Crossword puzzle grid with 'TWO' and 'CROSSWORD' clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Written afterthought (10), 8 Doubter of received opinion (7), 9 Stair-rail post (5), 10 Slavery symbol (4), 11 Hand-held firework; jewel (8), 13 A boat; shove (5), 14 Spiteful (5), 16 Cajole (8), 17 Round handle (4), 20 African doglike mammal (5), 21 Flinched in fear, abasement (7), 22 With ardent feeling (10)

SOLUTION TO NO 1438
ACROSS: 1 Palpable 5 Fake 7 Stepping out 8 Cape 9 Animus 10 Notary 13 Mac 14 Tattoo 17 Escape 18 Fund 19 Ignominious 20 Bean 21 Evensong

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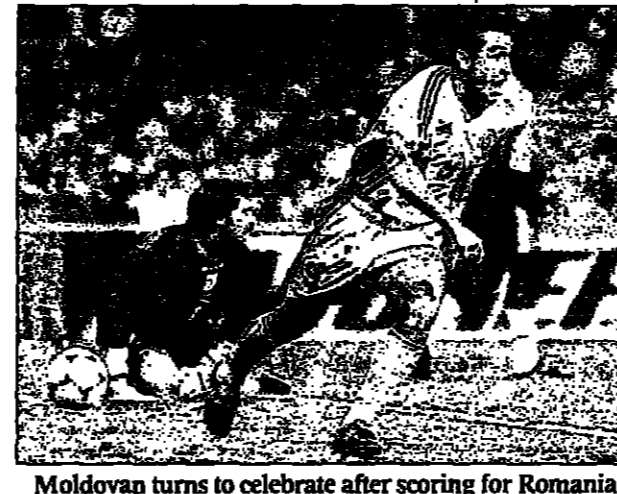
Beckham return adds spice

David Beckham had not endured such an identity crisis since the day he played for Manchester United wearing a shirt that was emblazoned Beckham, the one occasion when the dropping of his 'itches was purely accidental.

Beckham could operate in the same team as Darren Anderton, the man who has so controversially replaced him as right wing back. The Tottenham Hotspur player had been the only man singled out for criticism after the 2-0 victory over Tunisia, but he seemed very capable in justifying Glenn Hodde's faith in him last night.

His fitness questioned by Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager - hardly an impartial observer - Anderton responded by embarking on several promising sorties down the right bank and certainly brought more attacking threats than the unusually out-of-touch partnership of Shearer and Sheringham. Anderton had England's best chance of the opening half, a 20-yard drive rising just a foot over the crossbar.

England were having difficulties getting control of the ball. You guard your possessions tightly in Bucharest, a city renowned for the dexterity of its pickpockets, and the



Moldovan turns to celebrate after scoring for Romania

MORSE Systems Availability advertisement with logo and contact information.

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During July, Morse will host a series of seminars to help senior IT and business managers protect their companies against computer systems failure.

THE WORLD CUP TODAY page 48
3.00 Italy v Austria (ITV), Chile v Cameroon, 8.00 Scotland v Morocco (BBC), Brazil v Norway